



custom house  
**MARITIMES**  
SUMMER 2018

Above, in June volunteers labeled and counted tern nest and eggs on Great Gull Island. On September 13, you'll also have a chance to visit. Details TBA.



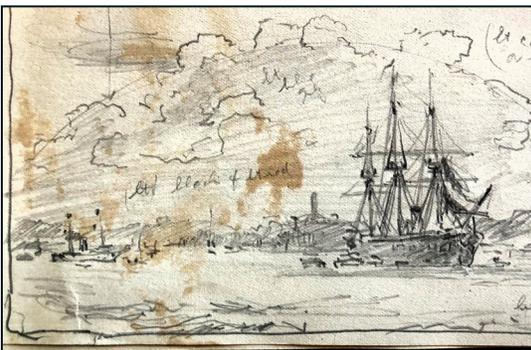
from our executive director

**Summer** means many things at the Custom House: boat trips, lighthouses, Nimble Arts Circus, concerts under the tent. We launch our summer festivities with a benefit concert - *with desserts* - on July 6. The Michigan trio *Mustard's Retreat* is stopping in New London to present a concert for the Maritime Society, on their way to the New Bedford Folk Fest. The group was last here when they opened for our Peter Yarrow concert in 2016. Mustard's Retreat will be featuring songs from their new CD 'Make Your Own Luck', to be released in late June. It promises to be a beautiful evening under the tent. ***An Evening of Song (and Desserts) with Mustard's Retreat, Friday, July 6, 7 PM.*** We'd love to have you there. Call 860-447-2501 or register 24/7 at [brownpapertickets.com/event/3499462](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/3499462).



On page 2 of this newsletter, you'll read about our long-term efforts to restore the custom house roof to its 1835 configuration, as well as a new project to install a WW II-era periscope. Planning now complete, roof repairs began in June and will continue for several years. We hope, however, to install the periscope by December.

Even in summer, it's dicey working at the lighthouses. Boats, tides, the weather -- there are so many variables. Our partners at the Ledge Light Foundation have led the way this spring by installing the last eleven of 28 windows on Ledge's first and second floors -- the task funded with a matching grant from the CT Trust For Historic Preservation. Next a roof sealant will be applied, and polyurethane painted on all of the new windows. We may even get to re-painting the white lighthouse base!



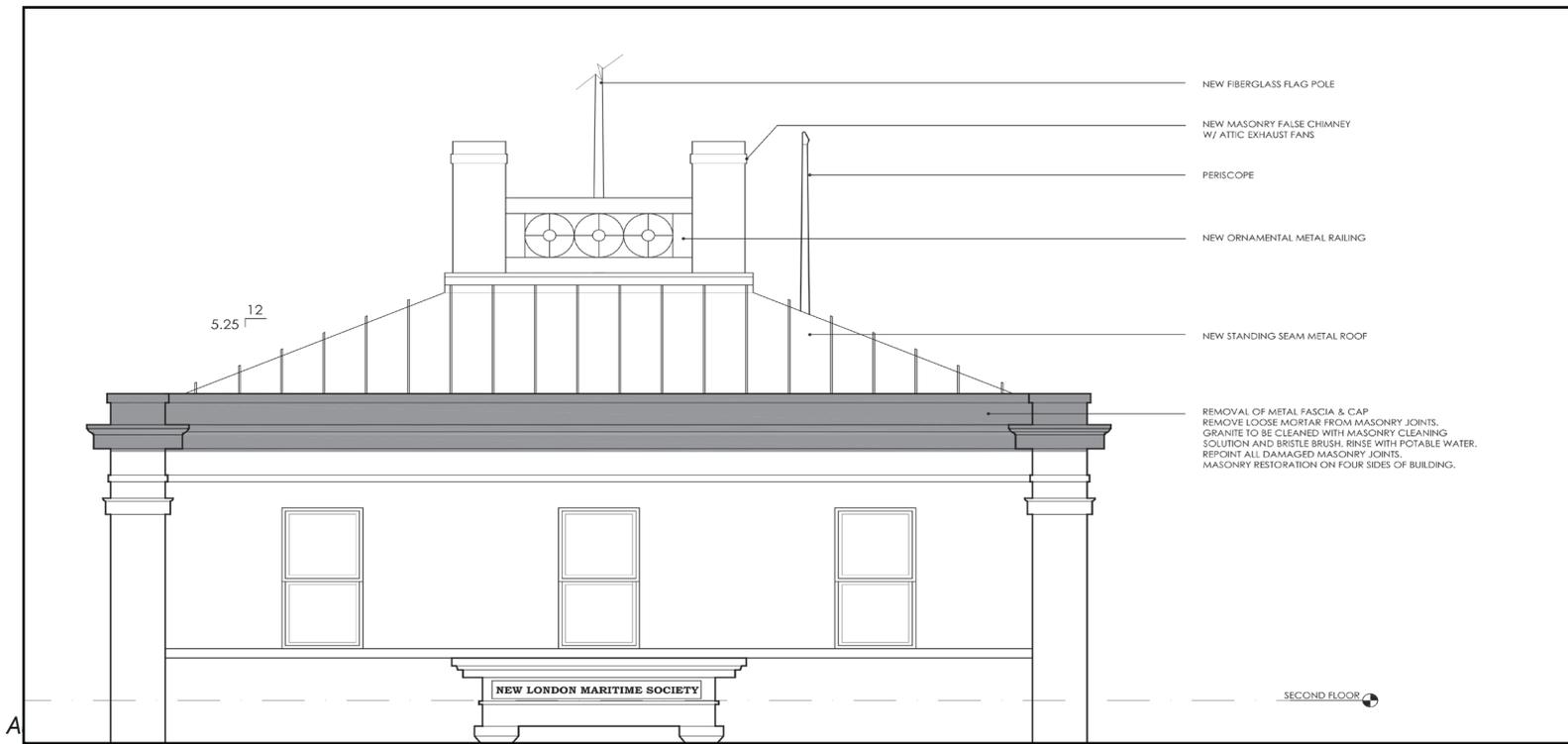
For our 8th annual ***Sentinels on the Sound*** celebration we have an eclectic line-up of Lighthouse & other Boat Tours. NLMS owns the three main lighthouses leading into the historic port of New London: Harbor Light, Ledge Light, and Race Rock, and we're planning trips to explore them all! New this year are intimate six-person excursions to visit *inside* Ledge Lighthouse leaving from New London's City Pier. And every ticket supports the work of the Maritime Society. We're looking for volunteers to help with work trips out to Ledge and Race Rock. Keep up with our ever-dynamic schedule at [nlmaritimesociety.org](http://nlmaritimesociety.org).

There's something for everyone this summer at the Custom House. We have never had a fuller -- funner -- calendar of events. Local Friendly Authentic -- we're not just any maritime museum, we're *your* maritime museum! -- *Susan Tamulevich*

From the top, Mustard's Retreat: David Tamulevich, Michael Hough, and Libby Glover; work at Ledge Lighthouse; one of several Reynolds Beal sketches of New London, donated by Ann Marenakos.

The Custom House Maritime Museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, from 1 to 5 PM, or by appointment: call 860-447-2501. Get all the details and register for most events online 24/7 at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com). Search 'New London'.

Custom House Maritime Museum - 150 Bank Street - New London - Connecticut - *Telling the stories of New London's Waterfront!*



## up on the roof

Our campaign to 'seal the perimeter' of the custom house is gaining momentum. Water has leaked 'in buckets' into the building since 1836, the year after it opened. This is our progress to date.

- Nine years ago we commissioned a Water Penetration Study of the building. As a result, we made a temporary '10-year fix' by covering the standing-seam roof with a rubberized coating.

- The roof and its four interior gutters are where 95% of the water is getting into the building. Over the past five years we have received CDBG, CT Trust, and Palmer Fund funding to commission a preservation/restoration plan for the roof -- we mean to fix the leaks once-and-for-all! Last year we hired historic preservation architect Jose Guzman, of Guzman Prufer, to prepare the plan.

- We also intend to restore the original 1835 Robert Mills look to the building. Our architect just completed the first draft of the roof drawings, and you can see a portion of his plan at the top of this page. Rather than replace the entire roof, our board decided to retain the still solid 1940s' beam structure, but to restore roof surface and the original Mills superstructure of four chimneys and cast-iron railing.

- In the meantime, with both Palmer and CDBG funding, we have begun replacing the four gutter sections which loop inside of the attic at the cornice level. The first (and worst) of these was replaced in early June. This is exciting as the water damage in the corners of the building - down through all floors and over many decades - was demoralizing *every day* as the brick and plaster flaked onto the floor. In the worst corner of the large gallery on the main floor, a portion of the water-damaged plaster ceiling was removed decades ago; last winter, this ceiling spot actually *rained indoors* one day following a storm. With the gutters replaced, that will *never happen again*.

- Last year we rebuilt four rotted and termite-eaten lower-level windows with historically accurate new windows made by The Cooper Group. The Group will replace a 5th window by the end of June, by when we also complete our lower-level ship model gallery and tugboat display.

- With resignation, we decided finally to remove the large Palownia tree at the front corner of the building. The tree grows out from just beneath the sub-basement and is a source of water entering the building. The City of New London is doing the tree work by the end of this month.

On the lighter side, last year we received the donation of a working WW II-era periscope from the US Navy. Its installation is being donated by John Steffian in honor of his mother Sarah. The scope will go through the roof with views out over the City. Russ Carr, an ex-Navy man, is working out the many complex details of the installation. We hope to have it in place by the end of the year. ■



From the top, Jose Guzman's plan for the Custom House roof, a workman creates access to the gutters inside the attic, the first of four new copper gutters, ex-Navy man Russell Carr, the CH ca. 1890.



**JUST DO IT!** ~ We have three different hands-on workshops this summer where you can learn how to make something new. All ages are welcome! Everyone loves our Victorian Sailors Embroidery exhibition. In **Make Your Own Woolie Workshop** you'll learn their techniques -- all materials provided. Yokai are Japanese spirits ~ monsters that personify forces of nature. Albert Sussler, who lives in Japan, will inspire you to create **Yoki Masks**. Jon Buller's **How to be a Cartoonist** classes are popular with young people and adults, alike. It's Jon's 9th year teaching at the Custom House.

from the Frank L McGuire Library

### Celebrating the Library's 20th Year

This year our embrace of library technology took hold with a splendid new catalog plus progress with the online documentary series. The catalog is nearly up to date thanks to Laurie Deredita, who has been gradually adding the backlog (including the Belbruno whaling books) that had developed since the State financial crisis brought down the former system in 2015. This turned out to be a blessing, because the new catalog is vastly superior. Click on "Library" at the top of the NLMS homepage, choose "Library Online Catalog," and type in words like "Long Island" or "New London." You'll be impressed with what turns up.

We're also creating a series of online documentaries on aspects of New London's maritime history. The latest of these describes -- in images from our collection and a concise narrative -- the U.S. Maritime Service Officers School that operated at Fort Trumbull from 1939 to 1946. Another is devoted to the life of William Douglass Alexander of Groton, outlining his career with the New London-Groton ferryboats, Thames Tow Boat Co., and the Navy. Click on "Library" at the top of the NLMS homepage, go from there and tell us what you think. (bdrog@conncoll.edu) The supply of documentary topics is almost endless, and others are in the pipeline. ■

Brian Rogers, Librarian



Browse five different online exhibitions on the NLMS website: *Robert Mills, the Greek Revival, and New London's Historic Custom House*; *The Frank L. McGuire Maritime Library in New London's Custom House, Maritime Museum: New London Postcard Collection*; *William Douglass Alexander, Marine Engineer*; and *U.S. Maritime Service Officers School at Fort Trumbull*, with more to come. Find them at <http://mcguirelibrary1998.omeka.net/exhibits>

*The Custom House Maritime Museum - your local, independent, community museum - open year-round - telling the stories of New London's waterfront!*

## I'M JOINING THE NEW LONDON MARITIME SOCIETY!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$35\_\_\_ Family \$50\_\_\_ Contributor \$100\_\_\_ Sponsor \$250\_\_\_ Patron \$1,000\_\_\_ Sign-up date \_\_\_\_\_

Cash\_\_\_ Check\_\_\_ ~ please make payment to New London Maritime Society Visa\_\_\_ Master Card\_\_\_ AmEx\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_ Security code \_\_\_\_\_

Benefits of membership include *free* admission, invitations to special events, discounts, and a newsletter.

*New London Maritime Society's mission is to protect, preserve, & and celebrate New London's U.S. Custom House, three area lighthouses, and Long Island Sound, and to interpret the rich maritime life & history of the port of New London and the surrounding region through museum exhibitions, educational programs, and preservation initiatives. Learn more about us at [nlmaritimesociety.org](http://nlmaritimesociety.org).*

New London Maritime Society - Custom House Maritime Museum, 150 Bank Street, New London, Connecticut 06320 860.447.2501

**N.L.M.S.**

\_\_\_\_ I'm donating \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Custom House. \_\_\_\_ Contact me about leaving a legacy.



Above, Sailor's Woolwork of the *Wreck of Lady Hobart*, c. 1870-1875, on loan from a private collection.

## Bully for Woolies: Victorian Sailors Embroidery + 4

The Charles B. Moss Sr. & Paula Moss Collection - On view through August 5

'Bully for Woolies' celebrates a recent gift of 22 'woolies', or Victorian sailor embroideries, from Charles B. Moss, Jr. *plus* the loan for four spectacular woolwork pieces from a private collection. Like the more-familiar sailors' crafts of scrimshaw, knotting, ship models, and shell valentines, the vast majority these embroidered paintings are anonymous works of folk art. Many have tremendous charm and depict scenes of ships at sea, light-houses, patriotic symbols, and the distant shore. Here is the story of one of these works.

Above, The Falmouth registered Post Office packet *Lady Hobart*, commanded by William Dorset Fellowes, was bound for England from Halifax, Nova Scotia, when, on 26th June 1803, she was attacked by a French privateering schooner which mistook her as defenceless. Fellowes opened fire and instead took the schooner. He sent her to England under a prize crew commanded by two Royal Naval lieutenants who were on board the packet as passengers, and sent off most of his prisoners, with the exception of the French captain, in Newfoundland fishing schooners which happened to be nearby. On 28th June, in fog, the *Lady Hobart* hit an iceberg at speed and rapidly sank. All those on board, among whom were female passengers and Fellowes' wife, took to the cutter and jolly boat, and survived eight days adrift before being picked up by another schooner that took them to Newfoundland. The only casualty was the captive French captain, who, under the influence of rum, reportedly killed himself by jumping overboard. Fellowes and his company later left Newfoundland in a ship taking salt fish to Oporto, but in mid-ocean transferred to an American vessel they encountered, which carried them into Bristol. Having sent a report of the loss, written in Newfoundland, to the Postmaster General, Fellowes subsequently expanded it into a more public account published as a book. This woolie depicts the desperate situation of Fellowes and his crew as they escape the sinking ship. ■



Top, Throughout the school year, NLMS brings NL's 300 third grade students to visit local historic sites. In June our last series of field trips explored Fort Trumbull. Bottom, Make Music Day brought the string duo *Patina* to perform at the Custom House.



New in the MUSEUM SHOP  
felt Oystercatchers \$45 and knit-  
your-own Oystercatcher kits \$15.

Oystercatchers are a little bit rare,  
a little bit awkward. They hug the  
shoreline and love shellfish.

Oystercatchers are on the endangered  
species list. The oystercatcher is  
really cool and it's our mascot!

SUMMER 2018 at the CUSTOM HOUSE, New London - for updates, go to [nlmaritimesociety.org](http://nlmaritimesociety.org)

▪ **LIGHTHOUSE, Sunset, Full-Moon & other fab BOAT TOURS:** Go to [nlmaritimesociety.org](http://nlmaritimesociety.org) for dates & times.

▪ **Concert - Fundraiser: *An Evening of Song (and Desserts)* with Mustards Retreat, July 6, 7 PM.** Concert to Benefit New London Maritime Society. \$30, \$25 at [brownpapertickets.com/event/3499462](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/3499462) or call 860-447-2501. Space is limited. (Remaining tickets will be sold at the door.) *See you there!*

▪ **Hands-On Workshop: *Stitch Your Own Woolie* workshops with Christina Corcoran, Saturdays July 7 & 21, 11 AM.** Learn how to make your own 'woolie' embroidered picture in the style of Victorian sailors! This 2-session workshop will introduce the various tools and techniques used in the handcraft of embroidered maritime pictures (currently on view at CHMM.) \$45-\$55. [brownpapertickets.com/event/3376194](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/3376194) or call 860-447-2501. Stop in and see the exhibition and examples of Christina's embroidery in the SHOP.

▪ **Book Talk: *The Sunken Gold: A Story of World War I Espionage and the Greatest Treasure Salvage in History*, with Joseph Williams, Thursday, July 12, 6 PM.** Librarian, archivist and historian Joseph A. Williams brings us the true story of the HMS Laurentic sunk by German mines off the coast of Ireland during the Great War. It is an exciting tale of undersea diving and naval operations, exemplifying human persistence, bravery and patriotism, with Lieutenant Commander Guybon C.C. Damant at the helm. \$12, \$6 NLMS members. Register at [brownpapertickets.com/event/3513860](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/3513860) or call 860-447-2501.

▪ **Jibboom Club: Ed Gladue, Tuesday, July 17, 1 PM doors open, 2 PM talk.** Ed Gladue former director of the USCG buoy depot on the Custom House Pier talks about his experiences working out of the Custom House with lighthouses on LIS. **FREE.**

▪ **Talk & Tour: *Fishers Island and the Ferguson Museum*, with Pierce Rafferty. Thursday, July 19 (Saturday, August 4, Thursday, September 13).** Join our excursion to Fishers Island to view the new *Photographers of Fishers Island, Part Two, 1940s to Date* exhibition, curated by Pierce Rafferty, at the Henry L. Ferguson Museum. A light lunch is provided. We're taking the Fishers Island Ferry from New London. Trip is limited to 12 attendees. \$65, \$60 members. [brownpapertickets.com/event/3515905](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/3515905)

▪ **Hands-On Workshop: *YOKAI MASK Workshops - for kids age 10 and up*, with Albert Sussler. Saturdays, July 21 and 28th, 10 AM to 12 noon.** Artist Albert Sussler is teaching a two-session Yokai Mask workshop. Yokai are Japanese spirits ~ monsters that personify forces of nature. Ages 10 and up. All materials included. Register at [brownpapertickets.com/event/3470717](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/3470717) or call 860-447-2501.

▪ **Hands-On Workshop: *How to be a Cartoonist - cartooning classes for kids age 8 and up*, with Jon Buller, Four Saturdays - July 21, 28, August 4, 11. 10:45 to noon.** Learn the basics of cartooning at this popular four-session workshop taught by kids' book illustrator cartoonist Jon Buller. Sign up at [brownpapertickets.com/event/3462392](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/3462392) or call 860-447-2501.

▪ **Illustrated Talk: *Plum Island Today*, with Jason D. Golden, Thursday, August 2, 7 PM.** For the first time in many years, *all public tours* of Plum Island have been canceled. We're bringing you the next best thing. The Public Affairs Officer at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, Jason Golden, will present an illustrated talk about the mission of PIADC and why its so important to everyone in our nation. He'll also answer your questions. \$12, \$10 members. [brownpapertickets.com/event/3512576](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/3512576), 860-447-2501.

▪ **Talk & Tour: *Fishers Island and the Ferguson Museum*, with Pierce Rafferty. Saturday, August 4.** See description July 19.

▪ **Family Fun: *NIMBLE ARTS CIRCUS*, Sunday, August 5, 4 & 6:30 PM.** Bring your family downtown to New London's Parade Plaza, when the City of New London & New London Maritime Society co-sponsor the renowned Nimble Arts Summer Circus, with **FREE** performances at 4 and 6:30 PM.

▪ **Opening: *The Art of the Tugboat*. Friday, August 10, 6 PM.** See description last page.

▪ **Jibboom Club: *Pilotage in America II - Long Island Sound*, with Captain Joseph Maco MNI, Tuesday, August 21.** Captain Joseph Maco continues his discussion of 40 years working as a ship pilot in Long Island Sound. **FREE.**

▪ **Illustrated Talk - Benefit: *Tugboats, Steamships & Trains, from New York to Maine*, with Steve Cryan. Sunday, September 9, 4 PM.** Artist-historian Steve Cryan on the things he loves best. \$16, \$14 members.

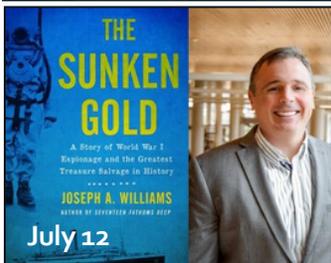
▪ **Tour: *Tour of Great Gull Island*. Thursday, September 13.** See [nlmaritimesociety.org](http://nlmaritimesociety.org). Details TBA.

▪ **Pirate Event, Book Talk & Signing: *Black Flags, Blue Waters - The Epic History of America's Most Notorious Pirates*, with Eric Jay Dolan, Sunday, Sept. 16, 4 pm.** *Black Flags, Blue Waters* reveals the dramatic and surprising history of American piracy's "Golden Age"—spanning the late 1600s through the early 1700s—when lawless pirates plied the coastal waters of North America and beyond. Other **FREE** pirate-related activities will be announced for earlier in the day. All events are **FREE**. Space is limited. Register online at [brownpapertickets.com/event/3371977](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/3371977) or call 860-447-2501.

▪ **Jibboom Club: *East to the Azores - A sail through the Islands*, with W. Frank Bohlen, Tuesday, Sept. 18.** Oceanographer and Prof. Emeritus in the Dept. of Marine Sciences UCONN, Frank Bohlen has a particular interest in islands and island groups, their natural history and cultures. **FREE.** Sponsored by the Maco Family Fund.

▪ **Talk & Tour: *Fishers Island and the Ferguson Museum*, with Pierce Rafferty. Thursday, September 20.** See description July 19.

▪ **Performance: *'Ode to the Sea'*, with Ava Wing and Aymeric Dupré la Tour, Sunday, Oct 7, 5 pm.** \$20, \$18 NLMS members. Register online at [brownpapertickets.com/event/3371977](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/3371977) or call 860-447-2501.



Discover the enormous effect the maritime world has on our daily lives at the Custom House Maritime Museum.

A small gem in downtown New London, NLMS's Custom House is New London's local maritime history museum & preservation organization. We are teachers, sailors, historians, librarians, & maritime aficionados. Please support us!

Your donation helps keep the lights on & the museum cool as we present lively programs, and preserve & share our authentic maritime heritage.

Visit us at [nlmaritimesociety.org](http://nlmaritimesociety.org).

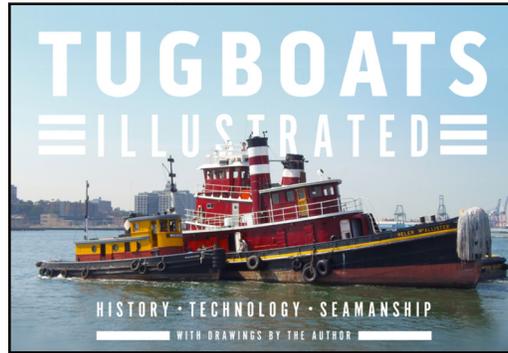
*Save the date*

On **Sunday, September 9 at 4 PM**, artist historian **Steven Cryan** will present an illustrated talk: **Tugboats, Steamboats and Trains (and a few lighthouses), from New York to Maine** -- all the things that Steve loves best!

The event benefits New London Maritime Society. \$20, \$18 members, \$6 youth. [brownpapertickets.com/event/3518289](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/3518289) Steve is a watercolor artist, illustrator, model-maker, and photographer. He has curated the holiday train show at the Connecticut River Museum for 25 years. The official artist for the Thames Tow Boat Company, Steve also gives their lighthouse tours. ■

*Below*, detail of a letter, 1904, from the Thames Tow Boat Co. archives at the New London Maritime Society.

The Art of Tugboats! opens Friday, August 10, 6-8 PM  
Celebrating a donation to NLMS from collector Steve Martin



Above clockwise from upper left, the Art of the Tugboat exhibition will include original 'Tugboats Illustrated' drawings and page layouts from Paul Farrell, watercolors by Hardie Gramatky creator of 'Little Toot', tugboat models and paintings donated to NLMS by collector Steve Martin, and paintings and models by Steve Cryan.

The Art of the Tugboat exhibition celebrates a donation of tugboat models and paintings to NLMS from collector **Steve Martin**. Artists contributing to the exhibition include Steve Cryan, Paul Farrell, Hardie Gramatky, and Marek Sarba, and Day photojournalists.

New London Maritime Society, 150 Bank Street, New London, CT 06320



*New London, Conn. April 18th*