The Vision

Last year, nearly 200 people from as far as Newfoundland and Philadelphia – Cape Verdeans, Canadians, sailors, civic and business leaders, educators, maritime museum representatives, students – came together for the Ernestina Forum at the New Bedford Whaling Museum. The idea behind the Forum was not only to convene Ernestina’s diverse constituents, but also to hear what people thought her future should hold. Again and again, the idea was reiterated that “something special happens” when you are aboard Ernestina; she is a “one-of-a-kind” historic ship that we cannot allow to deteriorate.

SEMA has kept a strong sense of the sentiment expressed at the Forum in every action we have taken over the past year. And, as we look forward to the coming years, we know that with all the support we’ve seen, it is inevitable that Ernestina will sail again.

Our vision is to see her, as you do on the cover of this report: heading out to sea — out to race her sisters in Gloucester, out for another educational ocean expedition, out for a day-sail enjoying the wind and water, out to train the next generation of mariners, out for another trans-Atlantic voyage to Cape Verde, or for some other amazing adventure yet to be imagined.

Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey Association
2011 Board of Directors

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Vice President
Robert Hildreth

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John “Buddy” Andrade
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Dear Members and Friends,

When I took up the challenge to be President of SEMA, I did so because my experience with Ernestina had a profound effect on my life. I brought my students from Westport to sail Ernestina, and I saw how the experience changed them. I sailed Ernestina as far as New York City and Halifax, Nova Scotia, and I felt that sailing, the joy of it and the teamwork involved, stirred my soul. I knew that I needed to make sure others could continue to experience what my students and I did. And I knew that Ernestina is extraordinary.

Three years have passed since a few of us sat around a table and thought that developing an organization to do fundraising for Ernestina would be a good idea. In that time, we’ve seen amazing things happen – over 200 new members and over $100,000 raised!

In 2010, we demonstrated, through our fundraising and public advocacy, that Ernestina truly has a depth and breadth of support. In 2011, we used our network and funds to show how SEMA is useful and important in the restoration and renewed life of the Ernestina. We purchased a new foremast and pushed for three new commissioners to be appointed to the Ernestina Commission, thus allowing the Commission to be fully operational once again. We’ve been working diligently to have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) approved by the state, so that we may have the ability to run programs and raise grant and public funds. With cooperation from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), we organized two volunteer days when dozens of people were able to do much needed hands-on work on the ship.

2012 holds much promise for those of us committed to restoring Ernestina – the DCR has begun the process of seeking a lessee for Ernestina through their Historic Curatorship Program. I believe that, with the right partner, a curator could be the path to a renewed life for Ernestina, one where her history and rich cultural heritage are honored and where she is able to ply the seas proudly once again.

Your support, hard work and dedication to Ernestina are the heart of SEMA, and I sincerely thank you for all you do.

Fair winds,

Mary Anne McQuillan
President, SEMA
Ernestina - 2011 Highlights

At the start of 2011, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) appointed Ed Lambert, former mayor of Fall River, as its Commissioner. He has been a supporter of Ernestina, and his leadership gives us great hope for her future.

In February, Ernestina’s 117th birthday was celebrated at M&C Cafe in New Bedford. Cape Verdean Ambassador Fatima Veiga and Gunga Tavares from the Boston Consul’s office presented donations in support of Ernestina, and Congressman Barney Frank, Dana Mohler-Faria, President of Bridgewater State University, DCR Commissioner Ed Lambert, Mayor Scott Lang, Senator Marc Pacheco, Representative Tony Cabral and Consul General Graca Fonseca from Portugal’s New Bedford office all spoke in support of the ship. Barbara (Monteiro) Burgo organized the event, which raised $4,000 for SEMA.

On June 6, the Tug Jaguar took Ernestina alongside and the two vessels traveled in tandem across New Bedford Harbor to the Fairhaven Shipyard, where she would remain for four months for assessment and repairs.

While on the rails, the DCR invested $183,000 into necessary work on the rigging, hull and estimates. The repairs addressed issues of leaking and Coast Guard-required maintenance. SEMA thanks the Commission and DCR for beginning to do the necessary maintenance to ensure her future survival.

Over the summer, Master Shipwright Leon Poindexter conducted an assessment of the repairs and cost necessary to bring Ernestina back to sailing shape, which would be put into a full report in 2012. The Massachusetts Historical Commission noted that “his familiarity with the vessel should insure that the methods and materials employed for this project are consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Historic Vessel Rehabilitation and the existing vessel fabric.”

The inspection by Poindexter confirmed an earlier DCR report that stated,“Unfortunately during [inspection] a severe amount of rot was found at the top of the foremast. This rot extends approximately four feet down from the top of the mast and the early prognosis is that the mast will need to be completely replaced.” With the funds from SEMA’s generous supporters, SEMA was able to purchase the foremast (from a Pacific Northwest Douglas fir) in August. SEMA worked with Mystic Seaport, who also had a shipment for another vessel, to combine the shipments, thus greatly reducing the totally cost of the foremast.
SEMA Directors, Julius Britto and Chris Davis; National Park Service Superintendent Jen Nersesian; (then-active) Ernestina Commissioners, Ken Foley and Steve Walsh; and Attorney MarDee Xifaras continued work on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) during the summer and fall, which would need to be signed with the DCR in order for SEMA to run any programs or raise grant money. The MOA has been reviewed by the Attorney General and the process continues to move in the right direction.

In September, the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth accepted valuable items from the Ernestina Commission archives, including numerous photos, ship’s logs, written and artistic materials from students who sailed Ernestina, and much more. The items were temporarily on display at the UMass Library and then transferred to the Archives and Special Collections at the University, where they will be properly stored and cared for.

SEMA closed the year with a great show of support - Bob Hildreth offered a $10,000 matching donation if SEMA could raise $10,000 by the end of 2011 - we were able to raise $17,000 (before the match) in one short month! Thank you!
Thank you!
We are so grateful for the continued support of our members.

Second Century Club
Members
Gifts of $1,000 and above
Benjamin & Deborah Baker
Robert Bernert, Jr.
Patrick Carney
Pamela Colgate*
Jay Hanson
Bob Hildreth
Laura Pires-Hester
Onset Cape Verdean Festival Association

Captain Members
Gifts of $500 to $999
Robert Ackerman
Thomas Bird
Julius & Sandra Britto
David & Judy Brownell
John & Laurie Bullard
Stephen Hopkins
Jane Kent*
Florence Locke
Bettina Borders & Victor Mailey
Rod McCollester
Mary Anne McQuillan
Finley Perry
St. Mark’s United Methodist Church
Thermax, Inc.
MarDee Xifaras

Explorer Members
Gifts of $125 to $249
Antone Almeida
John “Buddy” Andrade

Louise & Paul Anthony
Allan & Phyllis Bezanson
Sarah & Lawrence Brownell
Ted Cabral
Judith Curby
Andy DeAndrade
Melissa Devalles
David Eatough
John & Natalie Garfield, Jr.
Jonathan Howard
Clement Littleton
Ronald Locke
David Monk
Tony & Dorothy Morse
MY Night Life Fashion
My Small Boats
Neves Travel
Kristen & Reza Sarkarati
Sabrina Schlumberger
Chuck Smiler
Andrew & Marian Torchia
John Veale
Neal Weiss
Veronica & William Wilcox

Scott Lang
David & Lynda Langdon
Fred Littleton
Elizabeth Lockyer
Edward & Judy Lund
John McCoy
Annie McDowell
Karl & Barbara Meyer
Charlene Morrissey
George Morrissey
Dorothy & Tony Morse
Douglas Nemeth
Edward O’Sullivan
Robert Pacheco
Annie Parker
Naomi Rappaport
Inette Rex
Frances Ricketson
Tracey Saltus Ritter
Michael Ruddy
Jane & Phil Shute
Gilbert Simpkins
Wendy Sinton
Alice & William Smith
Sally Spooner
Fred Sterner
Robert & Judith Sterns
Stephen Swift
Stephen Thompson
Marjorie Waite
June & David Wallace

* Gift given in memory of a loved one.
Volunteers

SEMA would be nothing if not for the many, many volunteers who give of their time and lively spirits to wholeheartedly support Ernestina.

Buddy Andrade
Louise Anthony
Paul Anthony
Andrew Awad
Willi Bank
Alfred Barnaby
Denise Barnaby
Christopher J. Barros
Naia Barros
Cindy Bean
Jim Bean
Paul Brawley
Julius Britto
Nia Britto
Sandra Britto
Barbara (Monteiro) Burgo
Debbie Cardoza
Marty Casey
Don Collasius
Katie DePrato
Rich Drolet
Tally Garfield
Stephen Gaun
Norman Gomes
Tom Grace
Teheene Hart
Victoria Hart
Bob Hildreth
Jeanette Hoyt
Sam Hoyt
Christina Jones

Daniel Keith
Michelle Keith
Paul Kelly
Paul LaPointe
Lynda Thomas LeGay
Lisa Lemieux
Joe Lopes
Christian Lovaut
Ariane J. Martin
Annie McDowell
Mary Anne McQuillan
Gene Monteiro
Rachel Mulroy
James Pacheco
Joe Pacheco
Joe Pacheco, Jr.
Laura Pires-Hester
Marlene Pollock
Christine Santos
Kristen Sarkarati
Chuck Smiler
Fred Sterner
Steve Swift
Matt Sydlowski
Vi Taylor
Gerald Vinci
David Vitale-Wolff
Christy White
Polly Zajac
Fred Zinger

Community Support

The support of the community and the following organizations has made an enormous difference in SEMA’s development in 2011.

3rd Eye Open
Arthur Moniz Gallery
Baker Books
Brockton Fair
Cape Verdean News (CVN)
Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts
Coollywood
Global Learning Charter Public School
Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center
The Island Foundation
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Mayor Scott Lang’s Office
New Bedford Cable Access
New Bedford Harbor
Sea Chantey Chorus
New Bedford Whaling
National Historical Park
New Bedford Whaling Museum
The Ocean Explorium
Onset Cape Verdean Festival Association
Rose Alley Ale House
Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEAL)
WBSM-AM
Working Waterfront Festival

Treasurer’s Report

FY2011
Individual Contributions $37,024.00
Investment Income $151.00
Fundraising Income $7,347.00
Total Receipts $44,522.00
Fundraising Expenses $3,417.00
Administrative Expenses $5,626.00
Total Disbursements $9,043.00
Ending Net Income $35,484.00
The Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey Association, Inc. (SEMA) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation with the purpose of raising funds to provide for the maintenance, equipment, manning, programming and operation of the Schooner Ernestina ex Effie M. Morrissey as a sail training vessel, school ship and educational enterprise.