

# SCHOONER ERNESTINA-MORRISSEY ASSOCIATION 2013 & 2014 ANNUAL REPORT







**SCHOONER ERNESTINA-  
MORRISSEY ASSOCIATION, INC.  
2013 & 2014  
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*\*2013 only*

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Dear Friends,

When SEMA was formed in 2008, there were just a few of us tossing ideas around on how we could help save *Ernestina*. We were concerned about her future and thought – there must be something we can do! We believed that if private citizens could join with *Ernestina's* government caretakers, many people would seize the opportunity to be involved in setting a new course for the ship, one that would see her restored and sailing again.



Well, here we are, six years later, and we all have much to be proud of. Through SEMA, thousands of people have been given a voice in advocating for restoration of this historic vessel. Since 2008, individuals have given millions of their own dollars to ensure this ship is properly restored to sailing condition. And because we had financial proof that many people care about *Ernestina-Morrissey*, in 2014, the Commonwealth pledged \$2.5 million for her restoration. Then, Massachusetts Maritime Academy also pledged to be the future caretaker of the vessel, ensuring her sailing future for many, many years to come. Wow! Just, wow!

I'm sure that these amazing feats would never have happened if SEMA had remained just a few people tossing around ideas. They happened because of all of you – attending events, posting or sharing on Facebook, donating annually, calling your elected officials and writing to your local publications. You made it clear that *Ernestina-Morrissey* is worth saving.

Who are *Ernestina-Morrissey's* supporters and why? I can tell you, because over the years volunteering with SEMA, many people have shared their experiences and thoughts with me. They are former students who sailed upon her two decades ago and had an experience out on the wide, blue ocean that changed their world view. They want the next generation to sail on the open sea too. They are lovers of maritime history, who want to preserve the last wooden Essex-built Grand Banks fishing schooner. They know that her history is like no other and it would be a tragedy for her to rot at the dock. They are Canadians who remember her as Bob Bartlett's "little *Morrissey*" and who took great joy in seeing her heading out for adventure in the Arctic in the early part of the 20th century. They want to see her visit Canada again and to share her story with the next generation of seafarers. They are Cape Verdean-Americans, like me, who want to maintain this wonderful gift from the people of Cape Verde to the people of the United States of America and to preserve an important piece of our culture. We remember seeing her off the shores of Cape Verde and look forward to the day when she can make the transatlantic voyage again, greeted by young Cape Verdeans who have only seen her in pictures.

Her history binds all of us together, and we can take pride and comfort in knowing our collective efforts have ensured a renewed life for *Ernestina-Morrissey*. I can't wait to see what the next leg of her journey will bring and how many more lives will be touched by her.

With much gratitude,

Julius Britto  
President



# 2013 & 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

**2013 and 2014 were pivotal years for *Ernestina-Morrissey*. In these years, it became clear that her full restoration was certain.**

## May 2013

**A new mast was raised** and ceremonial coins were placed before masts were stepped (pictured at right). The coins placed in the ship represent her diverse life. They include a 1945 Newfoundland five-cent piece representing the Captain Bob Bartlett Arctic exploration years; a Cape Verdean 50 Escudos piece and a 2013 "America the Beautiful" quarter recognizing *Ernestina's* partnership with the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park. The new mast was paid for by donations from SEMA supporters, with an additional 2-to-1 match for contractors and rigging provided by the Massachusetts DCR.



## October 2013

Harold Burnham, a shipwright who supervised the 2008 rebuild of the ship's forward section, was contracted by DCR to assess the work needed for a complete rehabilitation of *Ernestina*. The report represented an important step in ensuring a sailing future for *Ernestina*.

## January 2014

In a report to the DCR and Schooner Ernestina Commission, **Shipwright Harold Burnham estimates the total hull restoration at \$5.9 million.**

## February 2014

***Ernestina-Morrissey* turns 120!** We celebrated the oldest wooden Essex-built Grand Banks schooner's birthday at the March AHA! night in New Bedford. In addition, Timothy Walker and Waltraud Coli held a joint lecture to mark the occasion at the Claire T. Carney Library Archives and Special Collections at UMass Dartmouth, home to the *Ernestina-Morrissey* archives.

## December 2014

Through a vote of the Schooner Ernestina Commission, **the ship's name was officially changed from *Ernestina* to *Ernestina-Morrissey***, reflecting her full 120 year history. She was named *Effie M. Morrissey* from 1894 to 1948. She was then bought by Henrique Mendes and renamed *Ernestina*.

**Massachusetts DCR announced \$2.5 million in funding** to restore the ship, alongside commitments from philanthropists Bob Hildreth and H.F. "Gerry" Lenfest for \$2.8 million. The announcement was made at the New Bedford Whaling Museum to a packed room of *Ernestina-Morrissey* supporters (pictured at right). "We're thrilled that Governor Patrick allocated the funds to set these repairs in motion," said then-DCR Commissioner Jack Murray. "We look forward to seeing the *Ernestina-Morrissey* seaworthy and sailing from New Bedford Harbor once again."

At the same event, Admiral Richard Gurnon, then-President of Massachusetts Maritime Academy, voiced his support for the vessel's re-birth **"Massachusetts Maritime Academy is pleased and proud to be able to be part of the next chapter of the life and legacy of the famous *Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey*,"**



*Pictured from left: Bob Hildreth, Julius Britto, Mary Anne McQuillan, then-DCR Commissioner Jack Murray, Laura Pires-Hester and Andy Tyska (representing Gerry Lenfest).*

# VOLUNTEERS

As an entirely volunteer-run organization, these generous people are the wind in SEMA's sails.  
Thank you to all those who gave of their time in 2013 and 2014.

John Andrade  
Louise Anthony  
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Polly Zajac  
Fred Zinger

## TREASURER'S REPORT

	<b>FY2013</b>	<b>FY2014</b>
Individual Contributions	\$29,719.00	\$46,967.42
Investment Income	\$781.26	\$166.83
<u>Fundraising Income</u>	<u>\$6,600.33</u>	<u>\$4,496.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$37,100.59	\$51,630.25
Fundraising Expenses	\$7,660.75	\$9,493.08
<u>Administrative Expenses</u>	<u>\$3,229.28</u>	<u>\$4,149.19</u>
Total Disbursements	\$10,890.03	\$13,642.27
<b><u>Ending Net Income</u></b>	<b><u>\$26,210.56</u></b>	<b><u>\$37,987.98</u></b>

## 2013-14 INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

### Second Century Club *Gifts of \$2,000 and up\**

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Lisa Hanson  
Susan McPeck\*\*  
Mary Anne McQuillan  
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*\* Gifts are combined total of 2013 and 2014*

*\*\* In memory of Sandy McPeck*

*^ In memory of Joseph Cabral*

*+ In memory of Fred Littleton*





## MISSION

*The purpose of the Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey Association, Inc. is to raise 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.*

Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey Association, Inc.

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