

Best Book award, Wallace was born and raised on Long Island, and has worked as a journalist for community newspapers and curator of the Northport Historical Society. In 2003 he was named the first poet laureate of Suffolk County.

**Pete Wenczel** was born in New York City, and raised in suburban New Jersey. Pete spent his childhood summers in Southold, where he first learned to swim, sail, fish, and clam. When he turned 20, Pete was working as a commercial fisherman, harvesting scallops and setting gil nets, catching bluefish and other finfish species. Alongside other commercial fishermen, Pete is an active participant in local and state management plans. A past president of the Southold Baymen's Association, Pete is committed to preserving this way of life.

**Maxwell Corydon Wheat, Jr.**, Freeport, NY, as Poet Laureate of Nassau County, is conducting an effort to encourage poets to write about Long Island natural and human history. For several years in October, he has conducted a participatory round-robin reading of salt marsh poetry at Cedermere, Nassau County Historic Site in Roslyn Harbor, home of the 19th Century poet, William Cullen Bryant. Last winter he started a Harbor Seal Poetry Writing Workshop at the Theodore Roosevelt Nature Center at Jones Beach State Park which he will repeat, Saturday, February 28, 2009.

**William Wise.** For the past 23 years, Mr. Wise has been the Associate Director of Stony Brook University's School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences and Director of the School's Living Marine Resources Institute (LIMRI). His interests and expertise include fisheries, marine policy and management, aquaculture, and marine education. Mr. Wise chairs a number of governmental and non-governmental bodies that advise on priority regional marine resource management issues, including the New York State Marine Resources Advisory Council, the Surf Clam/Ocean Quahog Management Advisory Board, and The Nature Conservancy's Bluepoints Bottomlands Council. He is a trustee of The Long Island Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.



## The Filmmakers

**Tom Garber** graduated from the Film/Video Department of California Institute of the Arts in 1980. Upon graduation, Mr. Garber moved to New York City and formed 20/20 Video Productions. In 1990 Mr. Garber formed Third Wave Films based in Hampton Bays. Mr. Garber has written, produced, directed, photographed, and edited Storm Warriors: United States Life-Saving Service, Dream of Wooden Boats, First Light: Montauk Point Lighthouse among others. His films have aired on PBS and The Discovery Channel.

**Glenn Gebhard** (Baymen), Producer/Director is an award winning film and video producer. Gebhard has produced and directed numerous films. His recent work includes "Cuba at a Crossroads", "A Farm Picture. Prof. Gebhard is currently in production on a documentary feature film titled "Patria o Muerte: Fidel Castro, Nationalism, and the Cuban Revolution", and "Fire Island", both of which are intended for worldwide television distribution.

Gotham Fish Tales was **Robert Maass'** first feature length documentary film. It was featured on The Sundance Channel for a two year period. He has spent much of his career as a stills photographer working for major magazines and variety of organizations and companies. Robert has also authored twelve books for children as both author and photographer.

**George Pozderek** is the writer and producer of "Jones Beach: An American Riviera" which aired on WNET in 1996. He currently works for ESPN as a filmmaker and producer. In 2007 he received an NEH grant for a production of *Theodore Dreiser: Marching Alone* that profiles the work of the famous author.

**Tim Tonner** is the creator of the award-winning film "Let's Go Lobstering!" An avid snowboarder, Tim resides in Stowe, Vermont, where his forthcoming project will explore the challenging adventures of Mt. Mansfield's winter backcountry terrain.

### Program Committee

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Long Island Traditions



present

~ Maritime Film Festival ~

# Traditions at the Crossroads

Sunday November 9, 2008

Stony Brook University



FILMS SCHEDULE	BALLROOM		ROOM 302
	Time	Event	Event
	10:30 AM	Leisure Time	Exploring Nature
	11:00 AM	Gotham Fish Tales	Let's Go Lobstering
	11:30 AM		Luck Isn't Enough: The Fight for Clean Water discussion
	11:45 AM	Jones Beach: An American Riviera	Ducks and Boats
	12:00 PM		East Hampton Dory Rescue Squad
	12:15 PM	Hampton Bays	
	12:30 PM		In the Barnegat Bay Tradition discussion
	1:00 PM	discussion	LUNCH BREAK
	1:30 PM	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK
		Working On Long Island's Waters	The Pacific Northwest
	2:00 PM	Doxsee Pound Trap	Deadliest Catch
	2:30 PM	Baymen	
	3:00 PM	Shared Ground	Work is our Joy: Columbia River Gillnetter
	3:30 PM	discussion	Fisher Poets
		Ecology & Conflict	
	4:00 PM	A Fish Story	discussion
	4:30 PM		
	5:00 PM	Crash: A Tale of Two Species	
	5:30 PM		
	6:00 PM	discussion	



## Introduction

Thank you for joining us at our first Maritime Film Festival. Today we will be showcasing films that explore the region's marine ecosystem, fishing traditions and coastal heritage, with discussions featuring filmmakers, local baymen, decoy carvers, clamshell artists and other tradition bearers.

Are fishermen and baymen endangered? Is our coastal ecology threatened? What is our waterfront history? Filmmakers have long been captivated with maritime heritage, ecology and history, weaving stories of stoic baymen, endangered marine species, and personal experiences into compelling films. Yet many filmgoers do not fully understand the myths and perceptions of those who work on the water, fish recreationally or enjoy the natural coastal environment. During the discussion segments in each session, we encourage you to ask and share your thoughts on the content of the films, ask the panelists what their thoughts are on the information presented, ask the filmmakers what inspired them, and other matters of interest to you.



## The Films

**Baymen** (Glenn Gebhard 1999). Once upon a time, the Great South Bay supplied 70 percent of clams consumed in the United States; these days only 6 percent are taken from Long Island. Naturally, these diminishing figures have had a tremendous impact on the people who make their living on the water. Their story is told in "*Baymen*," which examines the lives of local tradition bearers who continue to work on the water. Following the film there will be a discussion by several baymen of where things stand today.

**Crash** (Nature 2008). In the film *Crash: A Tale of Two Species*, filmmaker Alison Argo argues that the red knot birds are endangered because of the diminishing supply of horseshoe crabs in Delaware Bay. As a result of this documentary various states have banned horseshoe crab harvesting. Following the film there will be a discussion on how new regulations affect local baymen who depend on horseshoe crabs for bait.

**Deadliest Catch** (Discovery Communications 2005) The Bering Sea in Alaska is perhaps the most dangerous place for the dozens of fishing boats who harvest Alaskan King Crab, Ophelia Crab and Snow Crab, often in challenging weather conditions. Today you can learn about this occupation on the Discovery Channel's "The Deadliest Catch". The documentary explores the traditions and dangers that Alaska crab fishermen face, with actual footage of the boats at sea.

**Doxsee Pound Trap** (Bob Doxsee collection, c. 1940). In this personal home movie by the Bright Eye Fish Company, you will see what it was like in the early 1940's for companies who used pound net technology in the commercial fishing industry. The Doxsee Company is based in Point Lookout. Joining us will be Bob Doxsee who will describe this traditional method of fishing that was once common on Long Island.

**East Hampton Dory Rescue Squad** (Plum TV, 2006) The East Hampton Dory Rescue Squad was a traditional all volunteer rescue squad staffed primarily by local baymen. They used traditional dories to assist

other fishers and recreational boaters for over 200 years. As baymen have declined in the community the squad lost its volunteer base, and was disbanded in 2005. Featured in this documentary are Arnold Leo, Stuart Vorhpal, Milt Miller and Richard Lester.

**A Fish Story** (Sachem Street Films and Rhode Island Public Television, 2007) Since 1996 fishers around the country have faced new regulations implemented as part of the Magnuson Stevens Conservation Act. In this documentary you will learn how a group of Gloucester fishermen have been affected and what the future holds for this historic seaport. Joining us will be local Long Island fishermen and baymen Flo Sharkey and Pete Wenczel and a marine environmental researcher.

**Fisher Poets** (Ruby Productions 2005). *Fisher Poets* examines the fishers of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska and their poetry, a tradition that spans generations of those who work the waters and rivers of this remote region. We invite the audience to read aloud their fishing poems. Joining us will be Suffolk County Poet Laureate George Wallace and Nassau County poet laureate Max Wheat.

**Gotham Fish Tales** (Richard Maass Productions, 2003) This fun filled documentary tells the story of New York City fishermen who defy the urban environment and pursue this traditional sport and occupation. Learn how they cope with regulations, pollution and other natural obstacles, yielding fish of every kind. This film will challenge all those who say New York City's waterways are dead.

**In the Barnegat Bay Tradition** (New Jersey Network, 1983). Wildfowl carving and hunting has an extensive history on Long Island, beginning with the Native Americans who hunted and prepared wildfowl as part of their subsistence diet. This documentary profiles traditional carver Harry V. Shourds II of Linwood, New Jersey and sneak box builder Gus Heinrichs. Discussing the film will be Long Island decoy carvers and waterfowl hunters Dick Richardson and George Rigby.

**Jones Beach: An American Riviera** (Poz Productions, 1998 & 2006). This film Jones Beach explores the creation of Long Island's first major public beach by Robert Moses in 1929. Conceived at a time when park development was little more than an afterthought for civic planners, Jones Beach was a revolutionary concept: an ocean playground for the working people. Built against tremendous opposition from local politicians, the park was considered an engineering feat. The film chronicles Jones Beach's history through rare newsreels, evocative photographs, period music, and in-depth interviews.

**Let's Go Lobstering** (Barking Lobster Entertainment, 2004). This partly animated film is the story of a frustrated Vermont farmer unable to find lobster in any of his local markets, so he contacts his commercial Maine lobsterman buddy Chris to help satisfy his cravings. Chris and "Lobster Bob" describe how lobstermen catch this prized delicacy, from designing and setting the traps, boat design and other little known secrets of this traditional occupation. Appropriate for children age 5 and up.

**Luck Isn't Enough: The Fight for Clean Water** (Connecticut Sea Grant, 1993). This short informative film focuses on pollution in Long Island Sound. It shows us how ordinary people can both contribute and prevent water pollution through everyday actions. It encourages citizens and municipalities to take actions to prevent the pollution of streams, decay of ponds and lakes and to protect all waterways. Discussing the current status of Long Island Sound will be Larissa Graham of the Long Island Sound Study.

**Shared Ground** (Mudfrog Films, 1990). Learn about the shellfishing traditions of the Shinnecock Tribe in Southampton, and how modern technology and tradition are reviving the centuries-old practice of oystering. This documentary explores the overlapping issues of environ-

mental change and cultural survival by focusing on the Shinnecock Tribe Oyster Project, now entering its second phase. Joining us will be Madeline Roger, the project's directors.

**Tide and Time: The Maritime Heritage of Hampton Bays** (Third Wave Films, 2004). This film shows how the waterways of Hampton Bays have developed and sustained this hamlet for hundreds of years. Topics in the film include the evolution of fishing, heroic local sea captains and surfmen, the Ponquogue Lighthouse, the first summer residents, the 1938 Hurricane, and today's commercial fishermen.

**Work is Our Joy: The Story of the Columbia River Gillnetter** (Oregon State University, 1989) Drift gillnetting came to the Columbia River in the early 1850s. Many gillnetters on the river today are third- and fourth-generation descendants of fishermen who immigrated to the region in the nineteenth century. They established new communities and developed the most advanced gillnet fishery found anywhere in the world. The documentary is based on a series of oral history interviews. Join local Long Island gill net fisherman Charles Tekula for a discussion afterwards on how he catches fish in Great South Bay using the gill net.



## The Presenters

**Pat Augustine** has been fully engaged with fisheries management since the mid 1980's, and served as Executive Director of the New York Sportfishing Federation for some 10 years. In 1998, Governor Pataki, appointed Pat to serve as NY's Governor Appointee to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, on which he still serves. Concurrently, Pat is on the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, the National Marine Fisheries Service-Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel, and the U.S. Delegation to the International Convention For Atlantic Tunas. In addition, he serves as the MAFMC Liaison to the NEFMC.

**Bob Doxsee** of Doxsee Sea Clam Company of Point Lookout, carries on the traditions of his family, one of the older families to settle on the south shore of Long Island. In 1865 James H. Doxsee opened the first Long Island clam processing plant in Islip, which ran until c. 1900 when it disbanded. Bob's grandfather John C. Doxsee opened the Deep Sea Fish Company in Islip, setting ocean pound traps off Fire Island. In 1933 the company moved to Point Lookout, where it remains today. Today, the Doxsee Sea Clam Company harvests offshore skimmer clams. Bob Doxsee is a member of New York State's Marine Resources Advisory Council and is active in educating the public on Long Island's maritime heritage and fishing traditions.

**Assemblywoman Ginny Fields** represents the New York State 5<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. A native of Oakdale, Ginny Fields worked as a grassroots leader and activist for many years. As an environmentalist, she has been concerned with wetlands, habitat and open space and served as president of the Great South Bay Audubon Society. In 1999, she championed the acquisition by New York State of Benton Bay — comprising 127 acres of wetlands — after working for 10 years to facilitate preservation of the parcel. As an Assemblywoman she has worked tirelessly to preserve south shore wetlands, habitat and other maritime ecological sites.

**Larissa Graham** is the outreach coordinator for the Long Island Sound Study. She received her B.S. in environmental science from the University of Connecticut. After completing her undergraduate degree, she

worked for the CT Department of Environmental Protection, studying the lobster die-off in Long Island Sound. Larissa attended graduate school at Virginia Tech, where she studied bycatch in the horseshoe crab trawl fishery. Her role is to educate watershed residents about Long Island Sound and ways they can help.

**Jim King** is a commercial lobsterman residing in Mattituck. He is President of the Town of Southold Board of Trustees and active in the Long Island Sound Lobsterman's Association. He was also chair of the Southold Baymen's Association. Like other fishermen, King continues to defend their way of life by protesting waterfront homeowners' desire to build docks in shellfish habitat or by educating fellow lobsterman on the dangers of over harvesting.

**Dick Richardson** was born on the eastern shore of Maryland. His father served in the coast guard in Bellport in 1929-46. When he was discharged the family settled in Bellport. Dick is active in the Long Island Decoy Collectors Association. He was president of the Pattersquash Gun Club in Bellport, founded in 1922. Richardson is also producing a film on the club and the hunting and waterfowling traditions of Great South Bay.

**George Rigby, Jr.** is a descendant of baymen who settled on Long Island in the early 1900s. His father George Rigby, Sr. worked on the bay, harvesting many local species such as eels, crabs, scallops, and various types of finfish. Like many baymen, George learned these skills from his father and other baymen. He is active in the South Shore Waterfowlers Association along with the LI Decoy Collectors Association.

**Madeleine Rogers** is Project Director of The Shinnecock Shellfish Hatchery & Environmental Center (SHEC). When Rogers began in 2007 as interim director, she was a skilled special projects coordinator that knew little more than that she loved to eat shellfish. Today she carries her trusted water boots in the trunk of her car and understands the uses of shellfish bags, trays, cages and floats, knows how to use tide charts, how to identify shellfish predators, and can even shuck oysters with the best of them. Rogers serves on the Tribal Council of the Shinnecock Indian Nation, is a gifted jazz and R&B vocalist, a mother of two daughters, and Nana to three grandchildren.

**Flo Sharkey** is a 2nd-generation baywoman who is an active member of the Brookhaven Baymen's Association. As a young girl Flo learned how to clam, scallop, crab and eel from her father. She works full-time on the bay from her waterfront dock and home in Patchogue. Flo and other baymen advise the South Shore Estuary Reserve Council on issues that affect their livelihoods.

**Kenny Swaine** is the 3rd-generation owner of Swaine's bait and tackle shop in St. James. Like his father and grandfather, Swaine catches killies and other baitfish that he sells to recreational fishermen, who use the bait to catch striped bass, bluefish and flounder. In 1990 Kenny began making fish and lighthouse decorations from clamshells and other kinds of shells found on Long Island's beaches.

**Chuck Tekula** of Center Moriches catches fish in Great South Bay using a gill net. He learned to fish from older experienced commercial fishermen who lived near him. Chuck is also an advocate for commercial fishermen, writing for National Fisherman and newspapers about the difficulties that commercial fishermen face.

**George Wallace** is author of sixteen poetry chapbooks and two CDs, and editor of numerous poetry publications online and in hard copy. He is a frequent performer not only on the NYC scene but nationally and internationally and has performed at such venues as the Beat Museum, Woody Guthrie Festival, Howlfest, Shakespeare & Co and the Dylan Thomas Centre. Winner of the CW Post Poetry Prize and the Poetry Kit