



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Nautical Knot Tying: A piece of rope becomes a work of art** **See demonstrations at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wooden Boat Show set for May 6, 2017.**

BEAUFORT, NC - Don Van Hoy became fascinated with rope while serving in the U.S. Coast Guard. That was over fifteen years ago and his fascination still continues.

Van Hoy is keeping alive a tradition of working with ropes and knots for practical purposes. Known as Marlinespike seamanship, the practice goes back as long as there have been ships going to sea.

Van Hoy will be demonstrating the art of knot work during the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wooden Boat Show in Beaufort at the North Carolina Maritime Museum. The event takes place on Saturday, May 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Knots had to be made up properly so the sailor could tighten them and be able to loosen them so the line could be used again without having to cut it. Splices were worked into line to be able to form a loop in the end of a line and to join two lines together to make one long one. The metal marlinespike and wooden fid were tapered cone shaped tools used to separate strands of rope.

The sailor who became proficient at tying knots and working with line could also be referred to as a marlinespike. Old line was often recycled and made into items to be used in different fashion aboard the ship. Deck and ladder mats, monkey's fists for heaving lines and bell ropes were made by the sailors when they were not on watch.

While being gone far from home for long periods of time, sailors thinking of home, made gifts to take back to loved ones. Small strands of line were turned into intricate and beautiful jewelry, picture frames and buttons, amongst other things.



“Marlinspike seamanship will always be important as long as ships continue to go to sea,” said Van Hoy. Today, he makes handcrafted and practical items for use at home or on a boat by those of who care to keep this old art form alive and well.

For more information on Van Hoy’s traditional knot work, visit his website at the [www.oldnmarlinspike.com](http://www.oldnmarlinspike.com).

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wooden Boat Show has once again received top honors from the Southeast Tourism Society. The organization selected the North Carolina Maritime Museum’s Annual Wooden Boat Show as a “Top 20 Event for the Southeast” for May 2017. This is the third year in a row the museum has received the prestigious honor for the Annual Wooden Boat Show.

For a complete schedule of events for the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wooden Boat Show on May 6, visit [www.beaufortwoodenboatshow.com](http://www.beaufortwoodenboatshow.com).

The North Carolina Maritime Museum is located at 315 Front Street, Beaufort. 252-728-7317. For more information, visit their website at [www.ncmaritimemuseumbeaufort.com](http://www.ncmaritimemuseumbeaufort.com).

### **About the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort**

The North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort reflects coastal life and interprets lighthouses and lifesaving stations, the seafood industry, motorboats, and more. Studies in marine life, science, and ecology are available for all ages. The Beaufort museum is the repository for artifacts from Blackbeard’s wrecked flagship, *Queen Anne’s Revenge*, among them cannons, grenades, belt buckles and beads. The Harvey W. Smith Watercraft Center teaches boatbuilding for all ages.

The North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort is open Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is open to the public with free admission. Donations are always appreciated.

The North Carolina Maritime Museum system is comprised of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras, the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Beaufort and the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport. All three museums are part of the Division of State History Museums in the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

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### **About the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. The mission of NCDNCR is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit [www.ncdcr.gov](http://www.ncdcr.gov).

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