

“The Green

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and Jack Weeks

Founded in 1979, the Hudson River Maritime Museum in Kingston has been a fixture of the Rondout waterfront for over 40 years. Interpreting the history of the navigable length of the Hudson River and its tributaries, the Hudson River Maritime Museum has long realized the historical impact of the valley's industrial past on the natural landscape. As a waterfront museum that has endured numerous floods, especially during Hurricanes Irene and Sandy, we are also cognizant of the threats of climate change. Because of this, the museum has developed the concept of “The Green Museum,” a long-term goal to move the museum toward carbon neutrality. Work towards this goal has already included the installation of solar panels, heat pumps, and an HVAC system in the museum's primary building.

In addition to green facilities upgrades, the museum is incorporating climate change information into its exhibits and interpretation. Funded by a Hudson River Estuary grant from the NYS DEC, a new exhibit on climate change is currently under construction at the museum. A semi-permanent, hands-on display inside the building will be accompanied by outdoor interpretation. The exhibits will connect the industrial activities of the past with today's climate issues, as well as provide information on possible solutions.

In the last fifteen years, the museum has transformed from a small, local museum to a regional maritime heritage center. With its deep water bulkhead and no height restrictions, the museum's transient docking has been a cornerstone of the museum's growth. HRMM has become a destination for boaters from around the world. Our new Boater's Welcome Center, part of the Wooden Boat School, features showers, toilet facilities, and other services for our overnight guests.



Museum”



Home Port for the *Clearwater*

In 2012 the museum partnered with the Hudson River Sloop *Clearwater* to construct the Kingston Home Port & Education Center. Constructed to withstand the effects of flooding, this post-and-beam barn-like building is built on 80 foot pilings, with a three-foot concrete knee wall and elevated outlets. Built using historic techniques with post-and-beam joints and over 1,000 wooden pegs, the Home Port can easily withstand flooding without

serious structural damage. *Clearwater* docks at the museum during the winter and uses the space for sloop maintenance. In the summer, the museum uses the Home Port as a multi-use event space for educational programs, community events, and event rentals, including weddings.

In 2015, thanks to generous individual support as well as a grant from Scenic Hudson, the museum purchased the former Rosita' restaurant and transformed it into a Wooden Boat School. The