



THE KATAHDIN SEXTANT

March 2026

Our mission: To preserve and operate the Katahdin as a “living museum” for the benefit of our community, region, and future generations.

Letter from the Executive Director

The 2026 cruising season is going to be busy! We have half a dozen charters scheduled and we've added some new themed cruises.

- As the nation celebrates its 250th birthday, we'll be cruising to Rockwood with a spectacular Fireworks cruise.
- MMM partnered with the Wabanaki Trail Festival for a cruise on July 22 to kick off their program of activities.
- After the success of the Last Log Drive cruise, we've added a Spencer Bay cruise to our annual calendar.

- Every other Thursday, we'll offer Happy Hour cruises for a relaxing break from people's hectic vacation activities.

In October, the Shipyard in Boothbay Harbor started replacement of the “Green Rail”. This stage involves 2/3 of the starboard side rail along with the bulwark above and below and the cargo doors. Altogether this phase of the project is expected to take 3 years.

We have raised just over 1.78 million of our \$2 million goal in the Keep Kate Cruising Campaign. We are just

over \$200K from our goal and we are hopeful this year will take us over the top! Stay tuned for more news on fundraising activities. We're looking for someone to place the smokestack on our fundraising sign!

As in other issues, we honor the memories of supporters who have left us: George McEvoy, Jim Thorne, William Peet, and Chris Shields. They all impacted the Katahdin and we will miss them.

Liz McKeil, Executive Director



East Cove as photographed by Eric Johnsen.

MMM Special Events Schedule 2026

Open House	May 24	2pm—4pm
Donors Cruise—Josh Guthrie Band	June 20	6pm—9pm
Rockwood Fireworks Cruise	July 4	6:30pm—11:30pm
Thoreau Wabanaki Cruise	July 22	12:30pm—3:30pm
Happy Hour Cruises	July 9 & 23	5:30pm—7:30pm
Country Music Cruise—Midnight Rose	July 31	6pm—9pm
Dance Cruise—Maine Street R & B Revue	Aug 8	6pm—9pm
Happy Hour Cruises	Aug 6 & 20	5:30pm—7:30pm
Pirate Cruise—Papa Tim	Aug 22	6pm—9pm
Brews & Blues Cruise—Papa Tim	Sep 5	6pm—9pm
Happy Hour Cruise	Sep 10	5:30pm—7:30pm
One-Hour Fly-in Cruises	Sept 12	10am & 2:30pm
Head of the Lake Cruise	Sept 26	10am—5pm

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Moosehead Marine Museum

Construction on Green Rail Replacement Gets Underway

Did You Know?

ON A SHIP, SS MOST COMMONLY STANDS FOR STEAMSHIP, HISTORICALLY USED FOR VESSELS POWERED BY STEAM ENGINES, THOUGH IT COULD ALSO MEAN SCREW STEAMER (REFERRING TO THE PROPELLER) OR, IN THE U.S. NAVY CONTEXT (AS USS), UNITED STATES SHIP, WITH THE SS PART MEANING SUBMARINE. IN THE COMMERCIAL WORLD, SS DIFFERENTIATED STEAM-POWERED SHIPS FROM OLDER SAILING VESSELS OR NEWER MOTOR VESSELS (MV) AND IS NOW LARGELY OBSOLETE AS STEAM POWER WANED.

After a twelve-month hiatus to deal with administrative delays with funding, the Shipyard in Boothbay Harbor is back on board! In October, Shipyard workers Sam, Drake and Rick got to work on the starboard side of the Kate.

The first step was building a scaffold and shelter to support them as they remove and replace the exterior caprail and bulwark, or side decking. With the shrink-wrapped shelter in place, Sam and Rick hung plastic inside the lower deck, creating a space that is heated with a portable propane heater.

It may seem ironic to stop water from touching a boat, but the primary task of the entire deck replacement portion of the Keep Kate Cruising project is to prevent water from seeping into the boat's wooden parts. Every drop that seeps into cracks and joints or accumulates in seams, threatens to soften

the integrity of her structure.

The next step was demolition. The men removed the green rail and four to five strakes of side decking, depending on the amount of deterioration they found. The covering boards (edges of the deck) were removed, as were several of the supporting pillars. The wood was generally in better condition than expected, allowing for quick progress.

The Shipyard, in concert with the Facilities Committee of MMM's board, decided to "laminated" - or layer - the new rail. Laminating the wood makes the replacement stronger and more durable than the original. The new green rail is constructed with a camber, or convex curve, on the upper surface to allow water to flow off. A drip groove was added on the underside for the same effect. Once replacement is complete the rail will be fiberglassed and painted.

Over the winter months, the Shipyard crew will construct a new gutter for the Starboard edge of the upper deck. This gutter will match the one that was already crafted for the port side. They will also work on the cargo door, which has been detached entirely. This may be the most challenging part of all because the cargo doors will have to align perfectly with the permanent portion of the rail.

When Sam and Drake return in March, they will continue from the cargo door to a spot just forward of the heads.

We expect the full replacement to take three years. Next year, work will focus on the heads and the galley. Because both areas are exposed to water from both inside and out, the timeline will need to be flexible. We expect the forward section of the port side to be completed last.



Katahdin's "Green Rail" before demolition.



The new green rail. Note the drip groove on the underside to the right and the cambered upper surface.

Green Rail Photos



Starboard bow view. Note missing side strakes and new covering boards at lower right corner.



New Green Rail and side strakes. Note that some of the original side strakes were re-installed.



This is the edge where the green rail meets the cargo bay door. The replacement can be seen on the previous page in the lower right hand photo.



Brand new covering boards! The lattice at the bottom is the scaffold.

Moosehead Marine Museum

MMM Adds Thoreau Wabanaki Cruise



Jason Pardilla paddling in the 2025 Flotilla.



Penobscot Cultural Director James E. Francis, left, walks by the birch bark canoes gathered for the 2025 Flotilla held in West Cove.

MMM is pleased to partner this year with the Thoreau Wabanaki Festival; offering a 3-hour cruise on July 22 to kick off the 20th Anniversary programming.

Programs Descriptions

Penobscot Sense of Place with James E. Francis, Sr.—Hear first-hand about the Native American legend of Mt. Kineo, and how moose are part of the creation story, in “Penobscot Sense of Place” with James E. Francis, Sr., director of Penobscot Nation Cultural and Historic Preservation. Francis traces the Wabanaki origins of Maine geographic names that many people will recognize today. Explore the Penobscot relationship to the landscape, Penobscot lore and legend, and home ties to these woods and waters. A dynamic speaker, at once funny and informative, he also brings to light naturalist writer Henry David Thoreau’s life-long relationship to Indian culture, and how his experiences with Penobscot guides through the Moosehead Lake region influenced his American classic “The Maine Woods.”

The Birch Bark Canoe with Jason Pardilla—Also opening the 2026 Festival will be Jason Pardilla, a Penobscot

Guide and birch bark canoe builder. Jason will bring a traditional Penobscot birch bark canoe aboard the *Kate*, where guests can see the up close and hands-on the construction design of these ancient canoes. Join Jason as he tells the story of how a birch canoe is built, its history, paddling techniques and the differences in how a birch handles in the water compared to a wood and canvas and more modern canoes. In 1853, Penobscot Guide Joseph Attien took Thoreau on a birch bark canoe journey, along traditional Wabanaki water ways, steaming first up Moosehead Lake in a boat much like the *Katahdin*.

Biographies

James Eric Francis Sr. serves as the Director of Cultural and Historic Preservation, Tribal Historian, and Chair of the Penobscot Tribal Rights and Resource Protection Board for the Penobscot Nation. As a historian, he explores the relationship between Maine Native Americans and the land. Before his current roles, James contributed to the Wabanaki Studies Commission, assisting with the implementation of Maine’s Native American Studies Law in schools. He is a member of the Abbe Museum’s Board of Trustees and Abbe Council.

He is a co-founder and Chair of Local Context, an initiative dedicated to supporting Indigenous communities in managing their cultural heritage and intellectual property. He serves on the University of Maine’s Hudson Museum Advisory Board and chairs the Maine Archives Board. James is also a visual artist, photographer, filmmaker, painter, and graphic artist.

Jason Pardilla is a member of the Penobscot Nation and a Penobscot Nation Council member. He has been paddling canoes in the traditional territory of the Penobscots since the 1970s, from the headwaters to the ocean. Jason has participated in several group projects building birch bark canoes. He shares his extensive knowledge of canoes and waterways while guiding people for the Penobscot Nation’s Cultural Tourism Program.

THOREAU-WABANAKI MISSION: To encourage the understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of Maine’s unique cultural and natural heritage; Provide spiritual renewal in the North Woods or all Maine residents and visitors.

Meet Jennifer Aucoin, Operations Manager Extraordinaire

Few people have had a greater impact on the museum in the last decade than Jennifer Aucoin. Starting as our galley cook in 2016, she quickly made herself indispensable to the organization. Jenn brings a wealth of skill and experience to the operation and now serves as Operations Manager, handling bookkeeping, gift shop and galley management and so much more.

Jenn has a long history with the Kate. She remembers as a child accompanying her father, Duane Lander. They would make the rounds of town, checking on the Katahdin's condition. At the time the Kate still sat at Shipyard Point, waiting to see what her future held. Duane Lander was one of a handful of local citizens who were instrumental in acquiring the Kate and starting the museum. His company

made many of the original repairs to the boat that enabled her to begin cruising again in 1984. One of Jenn's early memories is of riding the Katahdin around that time with a friend. She recalls sitting with her legs hanging over the side of the rear fantail, which had not yet been extended.

Duane stayed connected to the Kate throughout his life, often stopping at the museum to issue instructions to Jenn and E.D. Liz McKeil. He insisted that the wharf was in need of a "Johnny Richards log" to buffer the boat from the seawall.

Jennifer's early experience running the Boom Chain Restaurant benefited MMM from the beginning. Her tenure in the galley transformed the menu from simple sandwiches and wraps to a wide offering of homemade soups, sandwiches, snacks and specials that consistently earn rave reviews. Her recollection of that first summer is that it was fun but really hard. She says she made sure the crew was fed so they didn't get "hangry."

Almost from the beginning Jenn also took on bookkeeping duties in the museum. She helped implement systemic changes that have earned the museum ten

straight years of clean audits—a crucial accomplishment that has advanced our success in raising funds for various projects, including our Keep Kate Cruising capital campaign. Executive Director Liz McKeil sees Jenn as a key staff member and relies heavily on Jenn's talents and guidance. "We couldn't do everything we do without her. From handling our auditing firm to cooking for 125 passengers on the Head of the Lake Cruise, Jennifer impacts the operation in countless ways."

Asked what's kept her at the museum for so long, Jenn thinks for a minute and responds, "It's part of me. We're like a family. We work well together and we share a common sense of purpose. We've had a lot of laughs."

Jenn says that her favorite part of her time at MMM is being with people when they board and when they disembark and seeing how they respond to the experience. "Seeing their reactions and realizing they enjoy it."

Finally, when asked what she wants people to take away from the museum, she says that she hopes people

will take in the Moosehead Lake Region's sense of home, of its past and its future—that they will embrace the past, its influence on the essential nature of our area—and not lose sight of it.



Young Jennifer Aucoin (second from left) aboard the Katahdin in 1984.



"Old Timers Club" members (from left to right) Randy Gartley, Ray Giroux, Jennifer Aucoin, Rocky Rockwell and Liz McKeil. All have 10+ years with MMM.

BURNING MOOSEHEAD STEAMER RACES ASHORE TO SAVE LIVES

From The Bangor Daily News May 14, 1901

Ten Men of the crew of the Katahdin Are Saved from Terrible Fate by the Pluck of Capt. Robinson, Who Sticks to His Post Until the Craft is Beached—Steamer Ruined

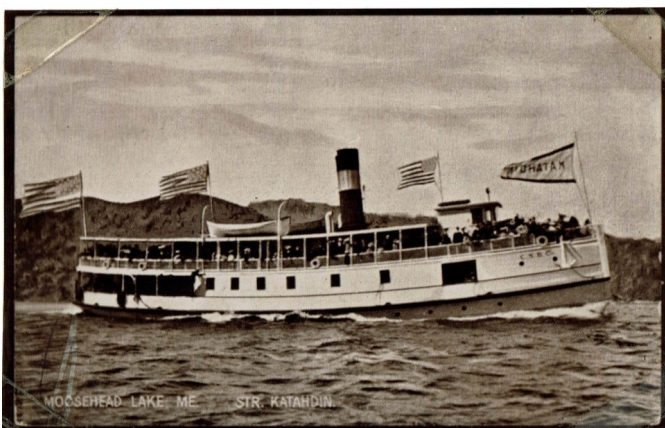
Kineo, Me., May 13.—Sticking to his post in the wheel house, Capt. C. J. Robinson piloted the burning steamer Katahdin from the middle of Moosehead Lake to the shore near East Outlet today saving the lives of ten men of the crew.

The Katahdin, one of the Coburn Steamboat Co.'s fleet, caught fire while towing a raft of logs. Her upper works were soon a mass of flames which drove the crew to the bow of the craft.

All on board managed to reach shore in safety. The steamer was burned to the waters edge.

The Katahdin was built some 20 years ago at Greenville and was the finest equipped and largest steamer on any inland water in Maine. During the summer season she was used to carry passengers to and from Greenville and the Mt. Kineo House half way up the lake.

Last fall the Katahdin was not hauled out of the water but was allowed to remain frozen in the ice all winter. As soon as the lake opened to navigation this spring, she commenced towing rafts of logs from various points about the shores to the East Outlet. Later on, it was intended to withdraw her from this work and put her on the regular summer passenger route between here and Kineo.



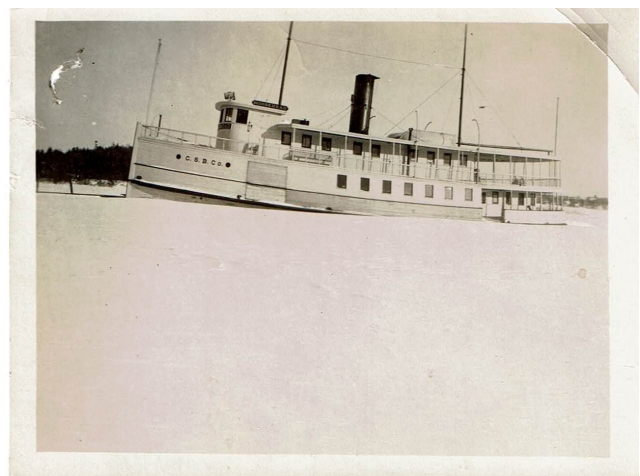
Katahdin I in her full glory

The Katahdin made an early start Tuesday morning and it was 5 o'clock when people on the shore saw flames burst from her upper works while she was well out in the lake. The steamer was proceeding slowly toward the East Outlet with a large raft of logs in tow. It is not known exactly how the fire caught, but it is supposed to have started about the funnel.

The flames gained headway with amazing rapidity. The crew was called to quarters but the upper works were soon a roaring furnace and nothing could be done toward checking the fire. Casting off the raft which he was towing, Capt. Robinson headed for the shore opposite the Nelson farm.

Then began the grim race with death, with the crew huddled well forward and grimly measuring the distance to the shore and the ever increasing heat from the angry tongues of fire which leaped high above the smokestack. The flames were roaring within a few feet of the pilot house but Capt. Robinson stuck to the wheel and, yard by yard, the distance to the shore and safety was decreased. At length the prow of the steamer grated on the beach and the crew leaped to dry land. In an incredibly short time, the Katahdin had burned to the water's edge and nothing was left of the steamer save a smoking hulk.

Officials of the Coburn Steamboat Co. said Tuesday that they had not decided whether or not an effort would be made to rebuild the steamer. The loss is partially covered by insurance. The burning of the Katahdin at this season, just as the summer rush is about to begin at Moosehead, will be seriously felt by the company. The summer schedule will be rearranged, however, and the service will be maintained by other company steamers.



A steamerboat (possibly Katahdin I) frozen into the lake

Local Artists Craft Donor Appreciation Sign

At the beginning of our Keep Kate Cruising capital campaign, committee members identified donor recognition as a high level priority. The existing display of metal plaques in the Kate's salon honored the extraordinary number of generous gifts made over almost fifty years, but there was little open space to do justice to the large number of additional gifts we were seeking.

After some brainstorming and

research, the committee decided to work with local artists Betsy Rockwell and Joe Bolf to develop a unique piece that would reflect the museum's mission and honor our unique environment. The resulting installation (below) exceeded our expectations.

Betsy designed the original concept, which includes tiles of Monson Slate engraved with donor names. She collaborated with Joe, who carved and painted the piece. Sheldon Slate of Monson donated the slate tiles. To add interest and authenticity, Betsy collected flat rocks and lake glass and

added them. Finally, Chris Brown generously contributed several shards of crockery that washed up on Sandbar Island from the wreck of the first Katahdin.

We mounted this new artwork on the wall where our previous plaques had been displayed. A new acrylic sign has been placed in the museum to honor our original plankowners.

We hope you'll take time to stop by this season and admire both signs.



Donor appreciation sign crafted by local artists Betsy Rockwell and Joe Bolf

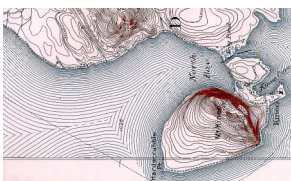
Thank you to our 2025 Donors!



Steering Circle

Steering Circle members are donors who provide significant gifts to promote the ongoing growth of MMM's mission. Steering Circle members view themselves as visionary stewards of MMM's legacy.

Telford & Karen Allen
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Kineo \$1000+

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Sugar Island \$500-\$999

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Rocky & Betsy Rockwell
Mark & Melissa Tweedie



Moose Island \$125-\$249

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Ledge Island \$50-\$124

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Some donors prefer to give toward specific needs of the Katahdin. In 2025 these gifts included
 Sandy & Mitch Liro—deck chairs
 If you wish to make a similar donation, please see our wish list on the back page of this newsletter.

IN LOVING MEMORY...
 WE REMEMBER THESE SPECIAL FRIENDS OF THE KATAHDIN: ARDEAN THORNTON,
 GEORGE MCEVOY, JIM THORNE, WILLIAM PEET, CHRIS SHIELDS, JOHN HORNSEY,
 BARBARA NICHOLS, CHARLES ADAMS

Thank You to our 2025 Donors!

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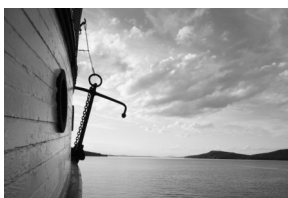
Captain \$2500+



First Mate \$1000—\$2499
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Ensign \$500—\$999
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Stress Free Moose
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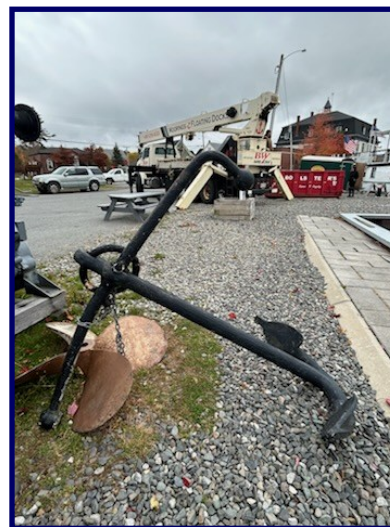
Yeoman \$250—\$499
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Indian Hill Construction
The Lakeshore House
The Lodge at Moosehead Lake
Maine Highlands Federal Credit
Union



Bosun \$100—\$249
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Mud Puddle Mercantile
Northeast Whitewater

IN-KIND DONATIONS

BICKFORD & SON PLUMBING—PARTIAL PLUMBING SERVICES FOR THE MUSEUM & THE KATE
BLAIR HILL INN—DINNER FOR 2 AT SLATE RESTAURANT FOR SUMMER RAFFLE
GEAGHAN BROTHERS BREWING COMPANY—BEER FOR OUR BREWS & BLUES CRUISE
JACK'S AIR SERVICE—SEAPLANE FLIGHT FOR 2 FOR SUMMER RAFFLE
NORTHWOODS OUTFITTERS—MOOSE SAFARI FOR 2 FOR SUMMER RAFFLE
SHELDON SLATE PRODUCTS—SLATE TILES FOR KEEP KATE CRUISING DONOR RECOGNITION DISPLAY AND DECK CHAIRS FOR THE KATE
B W BARGE & CRANE—REMOVED AN ANCHOR FROM THE STARBOARD SIDE OF THE BOAT TO FREE UP SPACE FOR SCAFFOLDING & SHRINK WRAP



BW Barge & Crane Service removed the anchor from Kate's starboard bow to make room for the Boothbay Harbor Shipyard crew to set up their winter scaffolding and shrinkwrap.

SAVE THE DATE!

OUR DONORS CRUISE IS COMING UP ON **SATURDAY, JUNE 20** , FROM 6-9PM. COCKTAILS WILL BE SERVED FROM 6-7PM DOCKSIDE. THE BOAT WILL CRUISE FROM 7-9PM. MUSIC BY THE JOSH GUTHRIE BAND. PLEASE RSVP BY EMAIL TO GIFTSHOP@MMM8.ORG OR PHONE (207-695-2716).

MMM Gift Acceptance Policy

Each year, Moosehead Marine Museum is the beneficiary of numerous gifts of money, objects and volunteer time, for which we are deeply grateful. From time to time, however, a gift is offered that, for some reason, is impractical for the museum to accept. Some examples of those reasons:

- The gift is too large and we have no ability to store or exhibit it
- The gift carries ongoing costs for maintenance or storage
- The gift object is unrelated to the Museum's mission
- The gift is attached to an object or action with which the Museum is unable to comply

MMM's Board of Directors has established a gift acceptance policy to assist in such situations.

MMM Gift Acceptance Policy

"Acceptance of any contribution, gift or grant is at the discretion of the Moosehead Marine Museum. The Museum will not accept any gift unless it can be used or expended consistently with the purpose and mission of the Museum.

No irrevocable gift, whether outright or life-income in character, will be accepted if under any reasonable set of circumstances the gift would jeopardize the donor's financial security.

The Museum will refrain from providing advice about the tax or other treatment of gifts and will encourage donors to seek guidance from their own professional advisors to assist them in the process of making their gift.

The Museum will accept donations of cash or publicly trad-

ed securities. Gifts of in-kind services will be accepted at the discretion of the Museum.

Certain other gifts, real property, personal property, in-kind gifts, non-liquid securities, and contributions whose sources are not transparent or whose use is restricted in some manner, must be reviewed by the Board of Directors' Finance Committee prior to acceptance due to the special obligations raised or liabilities they may pose for the Museum.

The Museum will provide acknowledgments to donors meeting IRS substantiation requirements for property received by the charity as a gift. However, except for gifts of cash and publicly traded securities, no value shall be ascribed to any receipt or other form of substantiation of

a gift received by the Museum.

The Museum will respect the intent of the donor relating to gifts for restricted purposes and those relating to the desire to remain anonymous. With respect to anonymous gifts, the Museum will restrict information about the donor to only those staff members with a need to know.

The Museum will not compensate, whether through commissions, finders' fees, or other means, any third party for directing a gift or a donor to the Museum."

If you are considering donating an object or objects to the Museum, it is helpful to contact us in advance to discuss how this policy applies.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT THE MOOSEHEAD MARINE MUSEUM, INCLUDING OUTRIGHT GIFTS OF CASH OR DONATIONS THAT CAN BE CONVERTED TO CASH AND PLANNED GIFTS SUCH AS A BEQUEST THAT WILL SUPPORT THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF THE MUSEUM.

IF YOU ARE 70 1/2 OR OLDER, YOU CAN MAKE A GIFT – A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD) - TO THE MOOSEHEAD MARINE MUSEUM BY DIRECTING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS (UP TO \$100,000 PER YEAR) FROM A TRADITIONAL OR ROTH IRA. SUCH A DONATION CAN REDUCE YOUR TAXABLE INCOME WHILE BENEFITTING THE MUSEUM. YOU MUST TELL YOUR IRA ADMINISTRATOR TO TRANSFER YOUR GIFT DIRECTLY TO THE MUSEUM FROM YOUR TRADITIONAL OR ROTH IRA ACCOUNT.

OR GO TO KATAHDINCRUISES.COM/PRESERVE-THE-KATE TO MAKE A KEEP KATE CRUISING CAMPAIGN GIFT SECURELY ONLINE; REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM THE MUSEUM BY CALLING 207-695-2716 OR EMAILING LIZ MCKEIL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT LMCKEIL@MMM8.ORG; SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF THE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE; OR SCAN THE QR CODE HERE:



MOOSEHEAD MARINE MUSEUM
P. O. Box 1151
GREENVILLE, ME 04441

MOOSEHEAD MARINE MUSEUM

12 Lily Bay Road
P.O. Box 1151
Greenville, ME 04441

Phone: 207-695-2716
Email: info@katahdincruises.com
www.katahdincruises.com



Targeted Giving “Wish List”

Lateral Filing Cabinet—\$500

Smart Meeting Board for Museum—\$1,200

Map Cabinet for Museum—\$5,000

Drainage Improvement for Museum—\$5,000

New camera system for Katahdin—\$7,500

Upgrade sound system for Katahdin—\$7,500

For more information and specific item costs, please contact Liz McKeil at 207-695-2716 or lmckeil@mmm8.org.

