

## Skipjack Heritage Days at Sandy Point State Park

September 13–14, 2025

Presented by Skipjack Heritage, Inc.

In partnership with:

ABC Events/ Maryland Seafood Festival



Photography by Glenn Thompson

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### WHY THIS MATTERS

The Chesapeake Bay was once home to over 1,400 skipjacks—America’s last commercial sailing fleet. Today, fewer than 24 float with only a dozen actively oystering.

Skipjack Heritage Days is a new, signature event that brings the legacy of these iconic vessels to life through education, hands-on experiences, and celebration.

This event offers a rare opportunity for families, students, and maritime enthusiasts to ride, tour, and learn from historic skipjacks and the captains who sail them. It revives a tradition of skipjack races and storytelling that once united our waterfront communities.

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### THE EXPERIENCE

Held during the MD Seafood Festival (11am–7pm both days), Skipjack Heritage Days includes:

- **Saturday (11am–5pm):**
  - Skipjack tours & public boat rides
  - Champions of the Chesapeake Family Activity Area
  - Live storytelling, speakers, and heritage presentations
- **Sunday (11am–5pm):**
  - 11am: Parade of Skipjacks
  - 12pm: Skipjack Race in the Bay (visible from shore)
  - 3pm: Awards Ceremony

✔ All skipjack activities included with MD Seafood Festival admission (\$15–\$20)

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### CHAMPIONS OF THE CHESAPEAKE

An interactive family education village featuring:

- Oyster restoration, boat building, and shoreline ecology
  - Conservation organizations and youth science activities
  - Heritage storytelling and hands-on workshops
  - Run 11am–5pm both days, FREE with festival admission
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### SKIPJACKS ATTENDING (Expected)

- Rebecca T. Ruark (1886) –Tilghman Island
- Kathryn (1901) –Deal Island
- Ida May (1906) –Deal Island
- Han-Em-Harv (1981) –Deal Island
- Nathan of Dorchester (1994) – Cambridge
- Rosie Parks (1955) –St. Michaels
- Wilma Lee (1940) –Annapolis
- HM Krentz (1955) –St. Michaels
- Messenger (1975) –Onancock, VA
- Ellsworth (1901) – Hudson, MD
- Sigsbee (1901) – Baltimore, MD
- Stanley Norman (1902) – St. Michaels, MD
- Plus Buy Boats: *Mildred Bell* and *Dudley*



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### OUR GOALS

- Preserve the stories of working watermen and Black maritime heritage
- Engage and educate families about Bay ecology and history
- Revive skipjack racing traditions and foster pride in local culture
- Promote tourism, economic development, and environmental awareness

### PARTNERS & PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- Event Presented by:** Skipjack Heritage, Inc. (Chance, MD)  
**In Collaboration With:** - ABC Events / MD Seafood Festival
- Annapolis Maritime Museum
  - Blacks of the Chesapeake
  - Department of Natural Resources
  - Dorchester Skipjack Committee
  - Eastport Yacht Club
  - Visit Annapolis
  - The Last Skipjacks Project
  - T2PTV
  - Living Classrooms, and many more

🎉 ***Our mission is to honor the past, educate the present, and protect the future.***

**JOIN US** and help preserve a way of life that shaped Maryland's identity.

📍 **Location:** Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis, MD

📅 **Dates:** September 13–14, 2025

🎫 **Admission:** \$15–\$20 via MD Seafood Festival [www.mdseafoodfestival.com](http://www.mdseafoodfestival.com)

✉️ **Contact:** [AACountyCollaborative@gmail.com](mailto:AACountyCollaborative@gmail.com)

*Let's bring the skipjacks back to Annapolis*

*—and ensure they never leave our memory again.*