



On Your MARC

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

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4th Quarter
Visitor Count
300
2017 Count
1693

Candy holds a sweet connection to Rockingham County *By Tony Gunn and Emily Parker*

At the December MARC Board of Directors meeting, members were treated to pieces of candy that have a sweet historical connection to a Rockingham County industry. With Valentines Day on the horizon, you might want to seek this nostalgic treat for loved ones.

Frango Mints, bite-sized pieces of chocolate heavily flavored with mint, were long a signature brand of bygone Chicago department store Marshall Field's. The store was just a small part of holdings by the manufacturing giant Marshall Field and Co., which also owned the Fieldcrest Mills textile company in Eden from 1911 until 1953.

Fieldcrest employees were able to purchase the candy through "personal shoppers" at Marshall Field's – individuals paid to help generate sales among corporate employees of the parent company. Frango Mints became an anticipated Christmas treat for many Fieldcrest employees, their friends, and family in Rockingham County.

The Frango mint was originally a West Coast import created nearly a century ago by Frederick and Nelson Co., a Seattle-based chain acquired by Field's in 1929. The mint was first called Franco, an acronym of that department store's name. The candy, renamed Frango in 1934, was made on the 13th floor of Marshall Field's flagship store in Chicago for nearly 70 years. Minneapolis-based Dayton Hudson, which bought Field's in 1990, outsourced production of Frangos to a Pennsylvania company in 1999.

Federated Department Stores bought the parent of Field's in 2005 and converted the Chicago-area stores to Macy's. In 2007, Macy's struck a deal with Chicago-based Cupid Candies to return some production of Frangos to that city. Last year, the Frango brand returned to Chicago ownership when Macy's sold the candy to Garrett Brands. However, Cincinnati-based Macy's continues to sell Frango products at its more than 350 stores across the country, including Greensboro, and online.



Credit: MARSHALL-FIELD-FRANGO-MINTS-large640.jpg?6. Digital image. Chicago Christmas: Marshall Field's Original Frango Mints A Holiday Tradition Missed By Many. Huffpost | Updated Dec 06, 2017, 23 Dec. 2012. Web. 15 Jan. 2018.

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From our Director, Jordan Rossi



MARC to raise the bar for progress in 2018

Happy new year, friends!

I'm writing to you on Wednesday, January 17th from the coziest place on my couch. Snow continues to fall outside, the museum rests closed – its last guests before the first flurry, a pack of boy scouts eagerly experiencing our newest exhibits. For me and many others, January is a time of reflection, planning, and aspiring. I'm proud of all the MARC has accomplished in 2017, with the help of our Board of Directors, donors, volunteers, and supporters. We opened a new natural history exhibit, *Ecology of the Dan River Basin*, and the *Short Sugars exhibit* (come check them out!), hosted thought provoking and entertaining lectures and public programs, began work on a 20 acre park, successfully applied for and dedicated a North Carolina State Highway Marker, and built relationships with local nonprofits.

So, where does the MARC go from here? I have set several goals for the new year.

- **Increase visitation** – Over the last three years, our annual visitation has hovered around 2,000 people. I think we can do better, but I need your help. We have two new exhibits. If you haven't stopped by in a couple years, we invite you to come see us now. After all, free admission is included in the benefits of your museum membership. I hope you'll think of us when you plan family and group outings. Consider bringing your neighbors, and pass along our news and brochures to them. The MARC staff will be working hard to spread the word, as well, through advertising, festivals, and social media.
- **Offer more and varied public programs** – The MARC has established a rhythm. On Thursday evenings throughout the year, we host lectures of local historical interest. In October, the MARC hosts its annual Pickin' at the MARC Fiddlers Convention. In August we hold our annual Summer Soiree fundraising event. And, in December we're joined by living historians for Christmas at Wright Tavern. In 2018, we'll continue to offer all these programs and add additional experiences to correspond with the evolving museum complex.
- **Expand beyond our walls** – In late spring, the MARC will open its historic hiking trails and river access at High Rock Ford. We will offer monthly interpretive hikes of the property related to its history and ecology, including Revolutionary War daily life on the site, the Regulators, and natural features of the park. We are also beginning to plan for a series of science programs for children, which will correspond with the *Ecology of the Dan River Basin* exhibit.
- **Return to our roots** — The MARC is relaunching the Historical Society's "Round Table" discussions, which will take place quarterly, beginning on March 9. This year, our theme will be genealogy – and we've engaged speakers to discuss such topics as DNA, research resources in Rockingham County, and tracing African American family histories. The most essential part of a round table is discussion, and we invite all interested to come and share their research and family stories.
- **Expand our Volunteer Guild** – Last October, the MARC took an important step toward expanding our volunteer guild when our new Administrative Assistant accepted the role as volunteer coordinator. Nadine Case's first major task was to organize volunteers for our annual Pickin' at the MARC Fiddlers Convention, one of our biggest events of the year. She has already proven to be excellent at engaging volunteers! With her help in 2018, and with the help of our wonderful volunteers – those who have been with us since the beginning and those who are new on the scene – we can tackle preservation projects, continue to create new exhibits, and welcome visitors. Oh, and by the way, we need your help! If you're interested in volunteering, or know someone who is, give us a call. We can always find a task you will enjoy.

As always, thank you for your support, and I'll see you at the museum!

Volunteers make it happen!

New year, new coordinator, and time to start anew

By Nadine Case, Volunteer Coordinator

From start to finish we are blessed to have incredible volunteers at MARC! Because of their hard work and dedication, all of our events and projects have been very successful over the past year. We are extremely thankful for each MARC volunteer who freely gives their time and efforts to the museum.

I have a true desire, dedication, and commitment to making key contributions to the continued success of the MARC. I look forward to working with our Volunteer Guild to expand our membership base. I also look forward to working with our team and members of our community as we continue our important work at the MARC.

To facilitate growth, we will be holding a **Volunteer Guild Tea on Saturday, April 7**. This occasion will celebrate the work of the past, as well as recruit new Guild members. With such a variety of work to be done to research and create exhibits, build and paint settings, organize artifacts, promote the MARC, conduct tours, welcome visitors, plan events, and many, many more, everyone can find something interesting to do here! To become a volunteer, contact me at 336-634-4949 or email me at MARCconnection@gmail.com!



Volunteers take time out for a picture at October's *Pickin' at the MARC Fiddlers Convention*: (seated) Nadine Case; (2nd row) Shelia Collins, Barbara Golding, Debra Delancey; (back row) D. J. Ballington, Betty Melchert, and Ginger Waynick.

***Pickin' at the MARC* - Traditional music for all generations**



This performance by *Impromptu* featured the talent of multiple generations at the *Pickin' at the MARC Fiddlers Convention* in October. (L to R) Jan Johansson, Noah Seymour, Tom Mylet, and Wayne Seymour). Thanks to our volunteers for making this a successful event and to all musicians who participated. Congratulations to our winners (listed, right)!

Guitar

- 1st: Vince Bullins
- 2nd: Michael Wood

Mandolin

- 1st: Zeb Gambill
- 2nd: Vince Bullins

Open/variety

- 1st: Sarah Wood
- 2nd: Michael Wood

Vocal

- 1st: Glenn Craver
- 2nd: Jeffrey Eubanks

Youth instrumental

- 1st: Noah Seymour

Old Time Fiddle

Bluegrass fiddle

- George Cox

Bluegrass Banjo

- 1st: Glenn Paschal
- 2nd: Ed Smith

Old Time Banjo

- 1st: Jeremy Glasgow

Bluegrass Band

- 1st: Southern Exchange

Old Time Band

- 1st: Buzz Cut Buzzard Guts & Buttered Nuts

Feature Article

MARC friend and guardian of Martin family heirlooms deceased

By Francie Lane

THOMAS T. UPSHUR
1915-2017

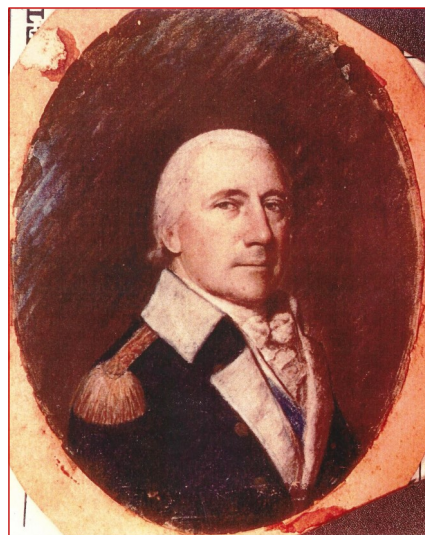
Dr. Thomas T. Upshur, IV, died at his Lynchburg, Virginia, home at the remarkable age of 102, on October 21, 2017. He will be truly missed by his friends and relatives at MARC. Following is his lineage:

Col. James Martin was born May 21, 1742, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, and younger brother of North Carolina Governor Alexander Martin. Col. James Martin built the Snow Creek Plantation and Union Iron Works of Stokes County. He died October 30, 1834 at his Snow Creek Plantation. One of his sons was:

John Julius Martin was born August 29, 1814, at the Snow Creek Plantation, Stokes County, NC, the 16th child of Col. James Martin and the 5th Martin child of Martha [Loftin] Jones Martin. John Julius died April 11, 1881, Winston, Forsyth County, NC. He was the Chairman of the old County Court of Stokes. He represented Forsyth and Stokes counties in the General Assembly, and was elected to the NC State Senate in 1854 and served three terms. His only child was:

James Martin, Esq. was born at Snow Creek Plantation on May 1, 1847. He served as the Probate Judge and Clerk of the Superior Court of Stokes County before moving to Winston, Forsyth County, where he died on January 3, 1903. James Martin, Esq. was the recipient of most of the family heirlooms from his Grandfather, Col. James Martin, and left his last requests in writing, including, "I want the old family relics and papers I have to be kept by my children. They can arrange that themselves, but as each passes away, let her leave hers to the surviving sister ..."

James' daughter, Caroline P. [Martin] Upshur was born in October 24, 1881 in Winston, Forsyth County, NC. She attended the Woman's College in Greensboro, NC, before her marriage to William Brown Upshur on June 4, 1903. Caroline and her husband settled in Sumter, SC where she died on March 4, 1979 at 97 years of age. The "family relics and papers" were well taken care of by Caroline, and passed on to her sons Thomas and Robert Upshur's care.



Portrait of Governor Alexander Martin that Tom Upshur and his brother donated to the collection of portraits of the Delegates to the US Constitutional Convention.

(Upshur obituary continued on page 5)

News from the Galleries

(Upshur obituary continued from page 4)

One of Caroline's six sons was:

Dr. Thomas T. Upshur, IV, was born February 22, 1915. Tom was raised in Sumter, SC. He received a BS degree from Presbyterian College; his DDS degree from Emory University, and his MS degree in periodontics from University of Michigan. Dr. Upshur served as a Captain in the U.S. Army Dental Corps during World War II in the European Theatre. He and his dear wife Betsy were married for seventy years and settled in Lynchburg, VA. Dr. Upshur was president of the Virginia Dental Association and regional dental societies. Tom held a deep reverence for his Martin family history and was a member of the prestigious Society of the Cincinnati, representing his second great grandfather and Revolutionary War Patriot, Col. James Martin.

Notes about the Martin family collection from Charles Rodenbough: The portrait of Governor Martin was done from life in Philadelphia in 1797. It was donated to the collection in Philadelphia of portraits of the Delegates to the US Constitutional Convention. MARC has a very good copy of it, also. Other artifacts from Governor Martin were donated to the NC Museum of History in Raleigh.

About Francie Lane

Francie Lane, of Yuba City, CA, is a long-time member of the Historical Society and MARC. Francie is held in high regard by County Historian Bob Carter, who considers her to be, "one of the best researchers I have ever met." Francie, a descendent of Col. James Martin, has written three books on the genealogy of the Martin family and interrelated families in Rockingham and Stokes County, NC. She has a fourth volume to be completed soon, and plans for a fifth.

Short Sugars shares their long history

One of the experiences offered to bidders at the 2017 MARC gala was the opportunity to "tell your own story" in an exhibit at MARC. David Wilson placed the winning bid for this unique prize, but the real winners are visitors to this new MARC gallery!

Short Sugars Pit Bar-B-Q restaurant has been a true North Carolina landmark since 1949. Their distinctive hand-pulled BBQ and sauce have won awards for generations, including being voted Best Bar-B-Q in the Nation by members of the United States Congress.

Fortunately, the restaurant history is central to the Wilson family, and they have carefully preserved numerous relics to reveal it. And, their history is also the history of their long-time patrons. Have you ever given thought to all the business dealings and relationships that got their start at Short Sugars? What memories did you make there? You will surely want to visit this display to celebrate this Reidsville icon and reflect on your experiences over the years!

The opportunity to have your own exhibit may well be offered again at this year's gala. Be thinking of your own collections and how you might share them at MARC.



Website Improvements Underway

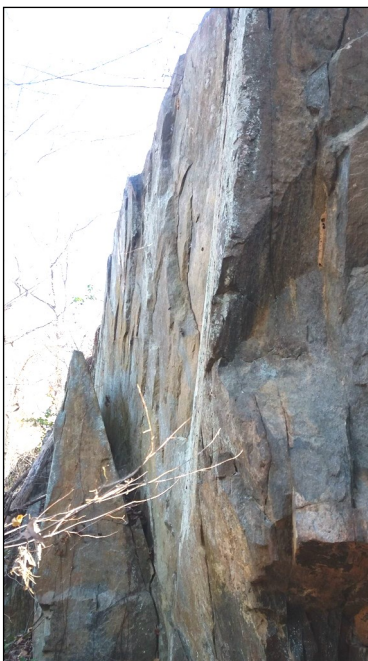
As I struggled to update MARC's website, I determined that, surely, if I had difficulty navigating it as the administrator, it must have been frustrating for website visitors, too. I am in the process of using a more user-friendly platform to recreate www.theMARConline.org. My goals for this new space are to provide the information you need to visit us – who we are, what we offer, where we are, our hours, admission, upcoming events, etc. Secondly, I hope the new "Blog" page will become an interactive and educational space, where people can visit to learn about our events, artifacts, and operations. —J. Rossi

MARC Business

Work has begun on the High Rock trail

Under the leadership of Tony McGee of RoundRock Design, planning and route selection for the trail on the High Rock property are complete. Prior to recent snows, McGee was “flagging” the routes with plans to begin construction soon afterward. A noted landscape architect, McGee’s trails are designed and constructed to reduce long-term maintenance requirements. This project design has also been planned in a manner to protect the natural environment and to avoid damage to the historical traits of the property. In addition to the quarter-mile hiking trail, the site will include a canoe and kayak access on the Haw River. Work should be completed by Spring 2018.

Funding for this project was provided by a \$60,500 Water Resources Grant from the Duke Energy Foundation. MARC is partnering with the Dan River Basin Association to develop this historical recreational facility.



Members and friends are invited to join MARC for “A Day at High Rock Park” on Saturday, April 21. Watch our website, Facebook, and Twitter for details.

(Left): This mammoth rock formation led to the site’s name, High Rock.

(Right): Bob Carter, Mark Bishopric, Guil Johnson, and Bryan Baker search for an optimal site for the park’s river vessel access to be located.



Remembering our friend

Jeanne Barksdale Brown Horsley died Friday, December 8, 2017 at Litchford Falls Nursing and Rehab in Raleigh following a courageous struggle with Lewy Body Dementia. We appreciate the many ways our friend faithfully served MARC as an ambassador, docent, receptionist, hostess, decorator, and planner. Her work here will be continued by the gifts given to MARC to honor her life.

We extend sympathies to her husband of 48 years, Bill Horsley, and to her children, grandchildren, and many friends.



Mr. History: Bob Carter, County Historian

Rockingham County Roads in the Early 20th Century

An old story says that when a man in Reidsville was called for jury duty at the courthouse in Wentworth during winter, he took the train through Danville to Leaksville and then hired a buggy to drive into Wentworth, rather than risk the more direct journey on the practically impassible road between Reidsville and Wentworth. The story may be apocryphal, but it reflects the condition of Rockingham County roads in winter months in the early 20th century.

Many of the county's early roads were laid out along ridges, but at some point most of them had to cross streams. Where a road crossed a stream, erosion cut down the road bed until it really became a gully. Traces of these old road beds are still numerous in rural sections of the county. Small streams had to be forded. The larger creeks were crossed by wooden bridges that could be expected to last about seven years, and the Dan, Mayo, and the Smith rivers were spanned by covered bridges.

Men living along the roads were expected to volunteer four days labor each year to work on the road as part of their civic duty, although medical exemptions could be obtained from a physician, if necessary. Their work was carried out under the direction of an overseer and consisted of cutting trees in danger of falling into the road and digging ditches to drain the water out of the road bed.

This antiquated roads system fell out of use, but the old road systems remained in place throughout the county until the early 1920s, when the county began a project to regrade the roads. Many of the roads were straightened, some were relocated, and a few were abandoned. The new roads were finished with a layer of top soil taken from farmers' fields. It was soon discovered that topsoil was a poor choice for the topping of a road. Besides ruining the farmers' fields, the top soil created a muddy road when it rained. During the same period it was discovered that mixing sand with clay resulted in an excellent road bed. Later, in the 1930s, the use of gravel roads came into general use.



Photograph courtesy of Ernie Doyle depicting his grandfather, James Samuel Doyle, seated on a steam roller ca. 1909. Convict laborers stand to the left of the steam roller.

In 1900, there were no improved highways in Rockingham County. With the advent of the Model T Ford even farmers could afford to purchase a car, and between 1908 and 1927, fifteen million Model T's were sold nationwide by the Ford Motor Company. As the number of automobiles increased, a "good roads" movement developed across the state. In 1906, the North Carolina State Legislature enacted a law for local citizens to vote on a bond issue to build 157 miles of macadam road in Rockingham County. After a hard fought battle the bond issue was defeated in a May 1906 election.

Despite the defeat of the bond issue, the County Commissioners voted in 1907 to macadamize the road from Reidsville to Settle's Bridge by way of Wentworth. The macadam road was pioneered by a Scottish engineer named John McAdam in the early 1820s. (The first macadam road in America was built in 1823.) These roads consisted of layers of crushed stone mixed with soil, gravel, and water and tightly packed with a heavy roller to form a hard surface. County commissioners purchased a ten-ton Kelly steam roller, rock crusher, sprinkler and other equipment necessary to construct the road. Several quarries were opened along the route as a supply for rock. Work began at Settle's Bridge in 1907. The route followed Settle's Bridge Road, crossing Rock House Creek below the present bridge, and entering into Wentworth along present day NC Hwy 65

(Rockingham County Roads continued on page 8)

Coming Events



North Carolina is the largest grower of sweet potatoes in the nation. At our February 24th program, we will get to the root of a basic question: What is the difference between yams and sweet potatoes? **Food For Thought: Yams and Sweet Potatoes** looks at home cooking and soul food through history. This program will include a tasting of various recipes and discussion of our family traditions.

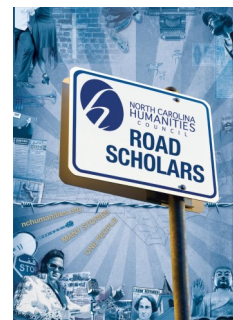
Valencia Abbott, history teacher at Rockingham County Early College High School, will facilitate the program. Join us at the MARC at 12:00 noon to enjoy the aroma and tastes as you gain new knowledge about North Carolina's cultural history and our official state vegetable!

NC Humanities Council speaker scheduled for March

We are pleased to announce Angela Robbins, Ph.D., will present our Women's History program on Thursday, March 29, at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Robbins is a lecturer from the Road Scholar Program which is supported by the North Carolina Humanities Council.

Dr. Robbins received her Ph.D. in US History from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where she specialized in women's history and attained a minor in Atlantic World Studies. Her presentation, **Poor but honest and industrious: Businesswomen in the Piedmont, 1865-1900**, will be based on her dissertation research to examine strategies employed by women in the North Carolina Piedmont to support themselves and their families in the unstable post-Civil War economy. Dr. Robbins completed her masters degree in Museum Studies at UNCG in 2002, and she has worked in education and collections management at several museums in this region.

All Road Scholar programs are presented free of charge to public audiences. We encourage MARC members to attend and bring friends to share in this cultural event for our community. Refreshments will be served prior to the program.



(Rockingham County Roads continued from page 7)

to Calvary Church. There the road turned to pass by Chinqua Penn Farm and continued into Reidsville by way of Wentworth Street. Work on the one lane road was completed early in 1911. An additional spur of the road was built from Calvary Church to Malloy's Stable along the Sandy Cross Road.

However, the macadam road was not a complete success. It soon became evident that as rocks and dirt washed away from the top, the rough and bumpy roads became a hazard to wagon and buggy tires. People tended to avoid them when they travelled, and soon sand-clay and gravel roads were constructed as secondary roads all across the county.

In 1915, the NC State Highway Commission formed, but little was accomplished until 1921 when the commission was reorganized. From 1922-1924, several highways were built in the County using the newer preferred material, concrete. The first concrete road, an eight mile road costing \$278,041, followed most of the old macadam route between Wentworth and Reidsville. Interestingly, that concrete is still in use today, with many layers of asphalt covering the original road. Two of the bridges built at this time near Reidsville are still in use today, also.

Recent Events



Photo credit: L. Barrett



Photo credit: Ryan Barber, VMNH

MARC's natural history exhibit offers interactive features

(L) Scouts from Calvary Baptist Church Pack 701 test an interactive display in the *Ecology of the Dan River Basin* exhibit. (R) The opening of the new exhibit on November 9 was the perfect opportunity to thank the exhibit sponsors and contributors. (L to R): Dr. Joe Keiper, Executive Director Virginia Museum of Natural History (VMNH), Jordan Rossi (MARC), Janet and Micky Silvers (Rockingham County Community Foundation), Dr. Nancy Moncrief, Jessica Davenport, and Dr. Jim Beard all of VMNH.



Photo credit: J. Bullins



Photo credit: J. Bullins

The **Rockingham County Naturalist Club** welcomed MARC members for two **fall hikes**. (Above left, October 15): Bob Carter shares the historical significance of the Old Moravian Road trail, at a segment now part of Mayo River State Park and located behind the former Kmart property in Madison. November's hike was on MARC's property, soon to become High Rock Park.

The **Annual MARC Christmas Open House** on December 2 drew a steady crowd of members and guests. (Above right): Terry and Joe Ramsbotham, from Cooleemee, NC, brought the old Tavern kitchen to life demonstrating historical recipes, cooking techniques, and experiences. Guests enjoyed sampling their delicious fare. Look for their Facebook page, **Wooden Ram Cookery**, for the delicious Gingerbread and Cranberry-Orange Shortbread Cookie recipes which were so popular among our guests! This was a homecoming for Terry, as she learned about her ancestors who once owned and operated Wright Tavern.

Museum & Archives of Rockingham County Board of Directors

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Members who receive newsletters by email save the MARC valuable printing and postage costs! You can keep your email address current by emailing changes to MARCconnection@gmail.com

ON YOUR MARC Staff

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Editorial Team & Photography:

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Tilda Balsley
Libby Barrett
Bob Carter

Fletcher Dalton
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Charles Rodenbough
Jordan Rossi



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MARC your calendar

Saturday, February 24 – Food for Thought: Yams or Sweet Potatoes – 12:00 noon at MARC
Discussion and food sampling

Friday, March 9 – Round Table: Genealogy
12:00 noon at MARC

Discussion and sharing – family history research

Thursday, March 22 – Board of Directors Meeting
at 6:00 p.m.

***Thursday, March 29 – NC Humanities Council
Roads Scholars women's history program – Poor
but honest and industrious: Businesswomen in the
Piedmont, 1865-1900 by Dr. Angela Robbins***
6:00 p.m. at MARC

Saturday, April 7 – Volunteer Guild Tea
11:00 a.m. at MARC

Saturday, April 14 – Member Day Celebration
1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at MARC
Light refreshments with brief remarks at 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 21 – A Day at High Rock Park
at 1618 High Rock Road, Gibsonville

SAVE THE DATE: Summer Soirée August 11, 2018

MARC Hours of Operation

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	1 pm–6 pm
Saturday	10 am–4 pm

Museum Admission

Adult	\$5.00
Seniors & Students	\$3.50
Children	\$2.50
Children under 4 years	FREE
Family pass	\$15.00
Members	FREE

Visit www.themarconline.org for individual and business membership information and forms.

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