



For Immediate Release

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Echo Hill Outdoor School

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Echo Hill Outdoor School in Kent County, Maryland, is proud to announce that it has received two major grants to rehabilitate their teaching vessel, the Buy Boat Annie D. The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority and the National Trust for Historic Preservation through the Bartus Trew Providence Preservation Fund will provide partial funding for this historic boat to receive a new shaft log, horn timber, cabin, and pilothouse. Matching funds for the project will be provided by Echo Hill Outdoor School. When the work is completed during the fall, the Annie D. will look much as it did when it was built in 1957 but it will be able to remain in use for education and historic tourism for at least the next 25 years.

In the heyday of the oyster industry, hundreds of buy boats were used to “buy” oysters off the sailing skipjacks. In addition to transporting oysters, they regularly hauled lumber and produce across the bay in the summer months. The buy boat Annie D. was built in Deltaville, VA in 1957, and was acquired by Echo Hill Outdoor School in 1984. The boat is now a familiar sight in the Chester River every spring and summer as children from around the region embark for 5-day trips to fish, crab, swim, explore, and meet local watermen, artists, musicians, and farmers.

Thanks to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority and the Bartus Trew Providence Preservation Fund at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Buy Boat Annie D. will continue to be a significant historic and cultural resource for children as they explore the bay with Echo Hill Outdoor School.

For more information about Echo Hill Outdoor School and its historic boats, visit www.ehos.org and click on Historic Boats.