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## NATIONAL CIVIL WAR NAVAL MUSEUM

### PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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# National artist donates painting to Port Columbus

**COLUMBUS, GA** – Famous local artist Bucky Bowles recently completed an original painting of a Civil War gunboat to donate to the National Civil War Naval Museum at Port Columbus. Bowles has been painting subjects involving steamboats on the Chattahoochee River for decades, however this is his first gunboat painting. “Water Witch – 1864” represents the Civil War ship Port Columbus is going to build in full-scale next to the museum buildings facing Victory Drive.

“We are very pleased that Bucky Bowles has agreed to help with this project by creating a wonderful new painting,” said the Port Columbus Board Chair Kenneth Coolik. “His painting represents the ship just as it appeared the night it was captured in Savannah in a Confederate Navy commando raid.”

Bowles is best known across the nation for his “Sporting Art” which includes fly-fishing and bird hunting. A majority of his work is sold in galleries in Atlanta, and he is a member of the Joseph House Gallery in Columbus. He travels to art shows around the nation, and is visiting a gallery in Colorado this week.

Bowles is set to deliver the painting to the museum during the Water Witch Community Campaign Kickoff on Friday, August 4 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for this Water Witch Project fundraising event are only \$25 per person. “We are delighted to have **Belloo’s** provide an open bar for this event and we will have wonderful food as well,” said Bruce Smith, Executive Director at Port Columbus.

Smith said the event would finally allow adults the opportunities to do what they have seen museum interpreters doing for years, shoot Civil War muskets, dice up vegetables with naval cutlasses and even eat some Civil War style hardtack. Also featured at the event will be a preview performance of the Cool History presentation of the attack on the Water Witch. “This should be our most dramatic presentation yet!” said Smith.

Artist Bowles will have a limited number of this limited edition print available to purchase for the benefit of the project. He will also be on hand to sign and number each one individually during the Kickoff event. Prints will subsequently be available at the museum’s gift shop any time.

For more information, call 706-327-9798, or see [www.portcolumbus.org](http://www.portcolumbus.org).

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