

Mainsheet

The Newsletter of the Woods Hole Historical Museum

Fall 2012

A Summer to Remember: WHHM's Summer Exhibits and Programs Attract Hundreds of Members and Guests

It was another whirlwind summer for the museum staff and volunteers. From the Opening Party in June to the Docent Appreciation Tea in late September, more than 2,300 visitors from 35 states and 10 countries enjoyed this season's exhibits and programs. This year's Bradley House exhibits featured a commemoration of the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and its impact on Cape Cod; a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Quissett Yacht Club; and a history of the Quissett Harbor Boatyard, including historical images, photos by Robert Manz and photos of the January 4, 2012 fire at the boatyard by archivist Susan F. Witzell. *Summer, continued on page 3.*



***Join the festivities
WHHM Holiday Party!
Thursday, December 13, 5 – 7 p.m.***

Be sure to stop by the Museum Gift Shop.

Check out our wonderful collection of books, clothing, children's activities and more! All proceeds benefit the museum.

Shoppers will receive a 10 % holiday party special on all items!

*We welcome one of your favorite holiday appetizers or desserts.
Contact Jeannette Fullerton at 508-548-5202 or djfullert@verizon.net
to lend a hand.*

New WHHM Officers Elected at 2012 Annual Meeting

More than 60 WHHM members attended the annual meeting on August 1 at the National Academy of Sciences Quissett Campus. Newly elected officers are: Nancy Bundy, chair; Arlene Lowenstein, vice chair; Jay Burnett, secretary; and Wendy Nies, treasurer. In her report, museum director Jennifer Gaines paid tribute to outgoing chair Ann Newbury for her leadership and dedication to the museum. Following the business meeting Prosser Gifford and Douglas Cooper delivered an illustrated talk about Quissett's past hundred years. Prosser spoke about the history of the community and Douglas shared stories of the various classes of boats that have been raced in the local waters during this time.

News from the Boat Barn

Every Saturday morning the lights are on and the coffee's hot in the Boat Shop. The "Boat Guys" are now using their many talents to build the skiff *Heidi* out of the *Wooden Boat* lineup using all traditional techniques.

"Special thanks to Bob Leary for providing leadership in this program," said museum director Jennifer Gaines. "I'm looking forward to the Boat Building Program becoming an even more important part of our museum's mission."

Another Art Bight Brightens the Museum

WHHM member and artist Jenny Junker treated the museum once again to a charming seasonal exhibit this fall. Entitled "Leaves" and inspired by the recent nor'easter, this multi-media installation featured both sound and visual images. In Gallery Two there was a hands-on area where children (and those young at heart) could create their own artwork inspired by real leaves and the herbarium samples posted on the wall.

This was the museum's fourth Art Bight. The program, developed by museum director Jennifer Gaines in collaboration with Jenny Junker, is a series of short-term special exhibitions that demonstrate a close connection with the natural world. Stay tuned for the next exhibit later this winter.

STEERING COMMITTEE

of the

Woods Hole Historical Collection & Museum

*A Division of
The Woods Hole Public Library*

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Vice Chairman

Arlene Lowenstein

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Steve Wagner

Executive Director and Curator

Jennifer Stone Gaines

Archivist and Assistant Curator

Susan Fletcher Witzell

Archives Open

Tuesday and Thursday

10—2

And by Appointment

Year Round

Exhibits Open

Mid-June—Late September

Tuesday—Saturday

10—4

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Summer Events (continued from page 1):

A visit to Martha's Vineyard Museum: On a rainy day in late June a hardy band of 20 docents and Steering Committee members ferried to the Vineyard to meet with David Nathans, museum director, and to tour the museum. The group thoroughly enjoyed a highly informative discussion led by Mr. Nathans about managing a small museum. Topics covered included everything from membership development to exhibition selection. The group also enjoyed a private tour of the MVM's 2012 exhibits. Despite the torrential rain, a grand time was had by all.

Oyster Talk & Tasting: On a beautiful Saturday afternoon in late August more than 70 museum members and guests attended a lively presentation on the museum grounds led by three members of the Falmouth Shellfish Cooperative. Matt Weeks, Peter Chase, and Eric Matzen discussed their methods of aquaculture in local waters, the history of the collaborative, and their plans for the future. After the talk the participants had the opportunity to taste the local products. Based on the number of oysters shucked and consumed, there's great enthusiasm for this venture and a hopeful future for these entrepreneurs.

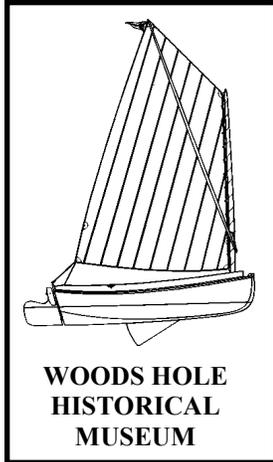
Open House for Quissett Yacht Club Members: Several generations of QYC members and their guests visited the museum on August 23 for a private museum tour led by museum director Jennifer Gaines. Of special interest was Gallery One, which featured an exhibit about the 100th anniversary of the QYC. Visitors admired the photos, captions, ship models and more that told the story of QYC. The exhibit was curated by QYC Commodore Katherine Cooper and her husband Douglas Cooper.

Summer Talks: The museum hosted two well-attended evening talks in August reaching more than 125 individuals. On August 1 Jim Ellis spoke to members and guests at the Woods Hole Public Library about New England and the War of 1812.



The following week Ridge and Linda White, fourth generation publishers of *The Eldridge Tide and Pilot Book*, shared the story of this iconic publication to a group of 70 at Redfield Auditorium. In a letter to museum director Jennifer Gaines following the presentation the Whites wrote, "... It was a special treat for Linda to come across the Rookie on the museum's lawn. .. A serendipitous surprise." The Rookie in the Museum's collection was identical to Linda's very first sailboat, given to her by her grandmother. Just like our own John Valois, Linda learned to sail in a Rookie at the head of Buzzards Bay; neither has ever forgotten their fondness for this cute little craft.

Jim Ellis, who spoke about the War of 1812 at the August 1st summer talk. Photo by Arlene Lowenstein.



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2013 WHHM Winter Programs

Winter 2013 is shaping up to be another busy season for the museum. The archives will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays for researchers. The popular Conversations series and Craft Workshops will be announced very soon. Check our website www.woodsholemuseum.org for updates.

Heads Up! The Model Boat Show is Coming to Town on April 13 – 14.

All hands on deck! The WHHM is hosting our 9th biennial Woods Hole Model Boat Show this spring. This two-day event features more than 50 model boat builders from the New England region and beyond and attracts approximately 500 visitors. The program includes demonstrations, lectures, boat races on Eel Pond, activities for children and more. Events are held in several venues stretching from the museum to the Candle House. Volunteers are needed to assist with all aspects of the show from the planning process to hosting venues throughout the event. To join the team, contact the museum at 508-548-7270 or e-mail director@woodsholemuseum.org.

Volunteers Needed!

The WHHM is seeking volunteers to join our standing committees. Consider lending your skills and talents to the museum. We're looking for help in the following areas: archives, social events, publicity/fundraising, membership, and programs. For more information, please contact Nancy Bundy, Steering Committee Chair, at 508-444-65244 or e-mail Nancy at bundyns@yahoo.com.

Thanks for your generosity!

The WHHM depends on the support of its members. We hope that you will consider making a year-end gift to the museum to help ensure our future. For more information, please contact museum director Jennifer Gaines: director@woodsholemuseum.org or call Jennifer at 508 548-7270.