



Mainsheet

The Newsletter of the Woods Hole Historical Museum

P.O. Box 185, Woods Hole, MA 02543

www.woodsholemuseum.org

508 548-7270

Spring 2013

The WHHM 2013 Summer Season Ready to Launch!

The WHHM is ready to launch its 37th season in Bradley House. The exhibit halls will feature displays commemorating two significant events in the history of Woods Hole. In Gallery One visitors will learn about the Woods Hole Children's School of Science, celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The exhibit features illustrations, photographs and other works created by the students over the years as well as a hands-on station for visitors, especially children, to have a taste of the Science School experience.

In Gallery Two visitors will learn about the Marine Biological Laboratory, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary. The exhibit is titled "In the Lab and Out Collecting." This gallery includes portraits of early scientists and photographs of collecting trips, picnics, canoe trips and more fun from the WHHM archives.

The season kicks off on Friday evening, June 21 with the Opening Party. This is always a lively event, providing museum members with an opportunity to catch up with one another, get a sneak peek at the new exhibits and purchase some wonderful items from our museum shop. The museum will open to the public on Saturday, June 22. Bradley House, the Yale Workshop, the Boat Barn, and the Museum Shop will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. until the end of September. Docents and interns will be on site throughout the season to welcome guests and provide information.

Be sure to save the following dates for additional programs:

Thursday, June 27 at 1 p.m. A hands-on workshop with rose enthusiast, Sandy Brown. Sandy will demonstrate propagation techniques and teach the group how to prepare rose cuttings. Following the workshop Sandy will lead the group in a brief "rose rustling" session in public areas around the village. Participants will leave with pots of Walsh roses, ready to grow! There will be a fee to cover materials. Reservations required.

Friday, July 12 at 5 p.m. Matthew Stackpole of Mystic Seaport, formerly director of the Martha's Vineyard Museum, will give an illustrated talk about the history, renovation and re-launching of the last surviving wooden whale ship *Charles W. Morgan*, a 5-year multi-million dollar project. The much-anticipated launch will take place on July 21 on the 172nd anniversary of her first launch in New Bedford. Boat shops around the country have been building authentic 28-foot double-ended whale boats to ship aboard the *Morgan*.

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***Join us for Our Opening Party
Friday, June 21 from 5 – 7 p.m.
In the Courtyard***

***Catch up with friends.
Be among the first to visit our 2013 exhibits.
Check out the new merchandise in our Museum Shop.***

Membership Renewal—The WHHM Needs You!

We're looking forward to another wonderful summer season at the WHHM. For more than 35 years we have counted on our members to provide the financial support to maintain and grow the archives, keep up our charming property, and deliver a wide variety of exhibits, programs, and social events that make the WHHM a unique place in our community. Please help us continue our fine traditions by returning your membership renewal form – or joining the museum - today.

For membership questions, contact Liz Moakley, Membership Chair. Email membership@woodsholemuseum.org.

Boat Shop News

The WHHM Boat Restoration Program, a.k.a. The Boat Shop, has just finished the lovely 12-foot sailing skiff *Heidi* which is now available for purchase. She has cedar planks on oak frames, cedar thwarts, meranti rubrails, spruce spars and is fastened with copper and bronze. The "Boat Guys" have a long list of "next" projects which include restoring a Beetle cat donated by Cynthia and Russ Rankin and lofting and building a Lowell's Racing dory. As always, museum visitors are welcome to stop in every Saturday morning to view the work in progress which is ably led by Bob Leary. Thanks also to Steering Committee member Steve Wagner, now serving as liaison to the shop and also actively researching other museums' boatbuilding programs.

WHHM Museum Shop Gets a Makeover

Jeremy Brown, new Museum Shop manager, has stocked the shop with a wide variety of "nautical and nice" items. In addition to the many books and maps from previous years, she has added a selection of clothing and crafts made by local artisans.

"Be sure to check out our Sea Shanty CDs, hand carved fishing lures, natural yarn from the Elizabeth Islands, colorful woven shawls by Vivian Dreisbach and exquisite handmade knives from Sam Densmore. Many items are unique to our shop," she said.

The Museum Shop is a great place to buy special gifts while also supporting the museum. During the summer season the shop is open on Tuesdays – Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and during special museum events.

Welcome, Jeremy, to the WHHM!

STEERING COMMITTEE of the Woods Hole Historical Museum *A Division of The Woods Hole Public Library*

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Arlene Lowenstein
Vice Chair
Bob Grosch
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Paul Ferris Smith
Steve Wagner

*Woods Hole Public Library
Representative*
Duncan Aspinwall

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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2013 Woods Hole Model Boat Show A Great Success

More than 450 visitors and exhibitors ventured to Woods Hole on April 13 and 14 to have fun while gaining and sharing knowledge about the art and craft of model boat building. This was the ninth biennial Model Boat Show sponsored by the Woods Hole Historical Museum. This year's program featured more than 230 models ranging from 1 1/2 inches long in a light bulb to a 10 foot long fully rigged ship. One of the exhibit halls was dedicated to the history of the U.S. Coast Guard in Woods Hole and included an extensive collection of model boats ranging from the earliest revenue cutters to today's ships. This exhibit hall was staffed with modelers and active and retired Coast Guard personnel.

Modelers also led several talks about their craft throughout the weekend. One of the talks was given by Dick Baldwin of Belfast, Maine. Dick has developed a program for students teaching them how to launch and track 3 foot long models with GPS tracking devices. Many of these models have sailed across the Atlantic. WHOI engineer Ben Allen said that he really enjoyed giving his talk about the submersible REMUS and that his audience was one of the best he's ever had.

Throughout the week-end youngsters floated boats in a pool on the museum lawn while kids of all ages enjoyed "driving" and watching radio controlled vehicles on Eel Pond. The most dramatic RC boats may have been two sleek boats brought from Connecticut by a man who builds sails for America's Cup boats. The most

vocal participants were a group of Woods Hole women who are used to competing in Cape Cod Knockabouts but who were given the opportunity to race in a regatta of Soling1 meter class boats.

Visitors had many opportunities to enjoy the models – which were displayed both in and out of the water. The modelers especially enjoyed sharing information with visitors. Jennifer Gaines notes, "One of the hallmarks of this show is the interplay between the exhibitors and the visitors. Several new exhibitors told me they were very impressed with the high caliber of the questions and the level of interest."

This event would not have been possible without the help of dozens of volunteers. Hats off to the



leadership, Jennifer and Arthur Gaines, and to their planning committee: Duncan Aspinwall, Jay Burnett, Bob Grosch, Arlene Lowenstein, Liz Moakley and Laura Reuter. Thanks, also, to the many local businesses and organizations who generously provided time, space and funding for this very special event.



Above: John Fries of Fries Sail Design, Waterford, Connecticut, sails his 2 meter long America's Cup challengers in the gentle winds of Eel Pond. Right: The display in Community Hall was stunning. Models in the foreground by John Stoudt of Chester Springs, Pennsylvania. Photos by Bob Grosch.

Tuesday, July 30 at noon. Charlotte Moore, president of the Woods Hole Children's School of Science, Will Moore, and Jennifer Gaines will lead a discussion in the Woods Hole Library about the centennial of the school and the book they have authored to mark this milestone, *Wet Sneakers & Nets, the Children's School of Science in Woods Hole, Massachusetts Celebrates 100 Years of Summer Science Education*. Members of the audience will be encouraged to join in the discussion and share their memories of their summers at the school. Copies of the book are available at the museum shop.

Wednesdays, July 3 – 31 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. join our multi-talented museum volunteer Gerald Ross in the courtyard as he delights visitors with his many talents - from putting ships in bottles to taking lobsters apart!

Thursday, August 1 at 7:30 p.m. the WHHM annual meeting will take place at The Church of the Messiah's parish hall. The Church is celebrating the 125th anniversary of the building of their stone church. Following the business meeting, Jennifer S. Gaines, a former warden of the church and Bob Haskell, a leader in the celebratory event, will deliver an illustrated talk about the history of the church and its role in the community.

Friday, August 30, 5-7 p.m. the museum welcomes back Peter Chase and Eric Matzen - this time to demonstrate how to properly (and safely!) shuck oysters. Once again, attendees will have the pleasure of tasting these sea treasures. Last summer Matt Weeks, Peter and Eric presented a very informative talk about the Falmouth Shellfish Cooperative. At this event, we'll have an update on that venture as well. This event will also be a fundraiser for the museum and tickets will be required.

Walking Tours:

Walking tours of Woods Hole will take place every Tuesday in July and August from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Tour leader Susan Pennington will take visitors around Eel Pond presenting information about the history of the village. Participants should call to make reservations and plan to arrive at Bradley House ten minutes before the tour starts.

In conjunction with the celebration of the centennial of the Children's School of Science, the museum will host brief walking tours on alternate Thursdays in July and August at 9 a.m. starting July 11. The walks will focus on the natural and man-made heritage of Woods Hole. These walks will be led by historians/naturalists, including former Science School teachers.

Note: no registration fees are required for these tours, but donations will be much appreciated. Reservations are recommended.

Be sure to check the WHHM website www.woodsholemuseum.org for updates to the schedule!

WHHM Revitalizes Oral History Project

The WHHM is revitalizing its oral history program, thanks in large part to a generous grant from the Falmouth Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation. "The grant has allowed the museum to purchase new equipment and bring on a professional oral historian to train volunteer interviewers," said WHHM Executive Director Jennifer S. Gaines, who wrote the grant.

The first two training sessions took place the week of May 13 at the Woods Hole Public Library. Approximately 25 adults and teens participated in the training which was led by Sydney Lewis, an experienced interviewer who spent a significant part of her professional career working with the renowned writer and interviewer Studs Terkel in Chicago. "We are delighted to have Syd on board to work on this project," said Jennifer Gaines. She added that as part of the grant Ms. Lewis worked with Falmouth High School students who interviewed local residents as part of a social studies class taught by Darrell E. Morey. Ms. Lewis helped the students improve their interviewing techniques.

Once the interviewers are comfortable using the equipment, they will begin interviewing residents of Woods Hole. According to Ms. Gaines, the plan is to complete 20 new interviews in the next few months – and more in the coming year – all of which will be added to the WHHM archives.