

Mainsheet

*The Newsletter of the Woods Hole Historical Museum
P.O. Box 185, Woods Hole, MA 02543
www.woodsholemuseum.org*

Spring 2012

Building Our Future: Long Range Planning Moves Ahead

It will come as no surprise to those who have been involved with the museum since its opening in 1976 that Bradley House has outgrown its archival space and is in need of significant renovation. The Long-Range-Planning Committee, which included members of the Woods Hole Public Library Board of Trustees and the Woods Hole Historical Museum's Steering Committee, worked for more than a year examining what is needed to refurbish and improve the facility. The committee's work culminated in a Request for Proposals which will be distributed to selected, qualified architectural firms later this spring.

"What's driving this project is the fact that Bradley House is ill-equipped to handle archives. Although the archives themselves are in good shape, the surrounding area is neither adequate nor appropriate for long-term storage and expansion," said Prosser Gifford, President of the Woods Hole Public Library. The scope of work includes restoration of Bradley House as well as new construction to house and protect the archive, provide flexible exhibit space and exhibit storage, and better accommodate the ongoing activities of the museum.

The joint committee includes Vicky Cullen (Chair) and Bob Pelletreau from the Library Board; Bob Grosch and Arlene Lowenstein from the Steering Committee; Museum staff member Susan Witzell; Library staff member Margaret McCormick; community representatives David Martin and Jill Neubauer; and Library Board President Prosser Gifford. The committee will review and evaluate the responses, meet with selected architects, visit appropriate facilities, and make a recommendation to the Library Board and Museum Steering Committee. At the same time, a development committee will be appointed by the Library Board to evaluate the feasibility of raising funds for the project.

"There is much work to be done," said Gifford. "This is a wonderful opportunity to build on our existing strengths and create a new and exciting resource."

WHHM Summer Auction Slated for July 21

The buzz is building for this year's WHHM Summer Auction. Phil Stanton, returning auctioneer, P.K. Simonds, auction chair, and the entire auction committee are hard at work organizing another terrific event. "The auction committee is actively looking for antiques, maritime items, and other collectibles," said Simonds. The most recent museum auction, held in 2010, sold more than 200 items and exceeded the committee's goal of \$10,000 - generating \$11,000 in revenue. This year's committee is hoping to top that amount by raising \$12,000.

"Some of the more interesting items auctioned at the most recent auction in 2010 include a late 19th century secretary, an Alaskan canoe, great signs, an antique iron crib, several boats, and great nautical artifacts," said Auctioneer Stanton. "If you're not sure about whether an item is appropriate for the auction, just call the museum. One of our committee members will be

Continued on next page....

2012 Gallery Exhibits Celebrate Quissett Yacht Club's 100th Anniversary, the history of the Quissett Harbor Boatyard and the Bicentennial of the War of 1812

Two exciting exhibits are planned for the 2012 summer season:

Gallery One will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Quissett Yacht Club. Adjacent to this exhibit in Gallery Two will be a history of the Quissett Harbor boatyard.

The remainder of Gallery Two will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. The exhibit will focus on three aspects of life on Cape Cod during the war – shipping, sheep, and salt. The F.L. Gifford painting, *The Launching of the Status Ante Bellum*, will be on loan from The Falmouth Historical Society. This painting depicts a ship that was built on the main street of Falmouth during the War of 1812 and launched just after the end of the war. Be sure to visit these exhibits early and often this summer.

Art Bights Continue To Delight

The Woods Hole Historical Museum held its third Art Bight the week-end of March 24-25. Art Bights, conceived by Museum director Jennifer Gaines, is a series of short-term special exhibits scheduled around the time of the solstice or equinox—each having a close connection with the natural world. The exhibits have been curated by local artist Jenny Junker assisted by Steering Committee member Lauren Leveque.

“The exhibits have brought new light, life and enthusiasm to Bradley House,” said Museum Director Jennifer Gaines. “We’re delighted with the creative collaboration of local artists and the support that the community has shown for this new initiative.”

Stay tuned for the next Art Bight at the autumn equinox.

Auction, continued from page 1

happy to consult with you about your items. We can also arrange to pick up your donations whenever it's convenient – starting right now,” he added.

Volunteers are needed to serve on the committee and help out the day of the event. For more information, call the museum at 508-548-7270 or e-mail woods_hole_historical@hotmail.com.

This event is the museum's major fundraiser of the year. Proceeds are used to support the Museum's many programs. Be sure to save the date and come ready to bid! Auction preview and silent auction will begin at 9:00 a.m., and the live auction will begin at 11:00 a.m. Look for more news and updates soon!

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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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www.woodsholemuseum.org

Museum's Successful Winter Programs: Sold-Out Craft Workshops and Standing-Room-Only Conversations

More than 300 individuals attended the museum's annual off-season Conversations and Craft Workshops. Dr. Susan Humphris, senior scientist at WHOI, kicked off this year's Conversations with a highly informative and entertaining talk about the past, present and future of WHOI's most famous submersible - the *Alvin*. The *Alvin*, best known for exploring the wreck of the RMS *Titanic* in 1986, was taken out of service at the end of 2010 to undergo the first stage of a multimillion-dollar upgrade funded by the National Science Foundation. The upgrade will ultimately allow the sub to stay down up to 12 hours, and dive to 6,500 meters. Dr. Humphris, lead scientist on this project, has gone on more than 30 dives in *Alvin*.

On February 27, three local oyster aquaculturalists, Matt Weeks, Eric Matzen and Dan Ward, discussed the work of the Falmouth Shellfish Cooperative, demonstrated the tools of their trade, and discussed their new product label, "Sippewissett Oysters," which are available at local restaurants in the area. The presenters also discussed their collaborations with local scientists on projects of mutual interest.

Phil Stanton and John Christian, two of the most successful Woods Hole sport fishermen, were the speakers at the third conversation, "Fish Tales," held March 26. John, a descendent of the Gifford family, has been fishing in Woods Hole his whole life. Phil has been fishing these waters since the 1970s when he started re-introducing eider ducks to this area and Penikese. "Though some might expect John and Phil to be competitors, these two are actually very friendly," said Museum Director Jennifer Gaines.

The final Conversation of the season will be held on Thursday, May 3 at Noon. Margie Yamamoto, formerly of WGBH TV, will speak about Japanese internment camps in the U.S. during World War II. The museum has sponsored Conversations since 1974. Recordings of these talks, as well as individual interviews, are housed in the Museum archives. Programs are free and open to the public.

The Museum's Winter Craft Workshops ran for 11 weeks, from January 12 - through March 22. The workshops featured a variety of handcrafts, from traditional to contemporary – all taught by accomplished local residents. Among this year's offerings were recycled wool mittens, bookbinding, papercut valentines, ropework, indigo dyeing, printmaking and basketry. Special thanks to this year's volunteer instructors: Ruth Bleakley, Barbara Douglass, Lauren Leveque, Margaret McCormick, Kellie Porter, Ryan Schenk, Rachel Switzer, and Stephen Wagner for delivering such great programs. Workshops are free to the public (except for the cost of materials). Stay tuned for next year's programs!



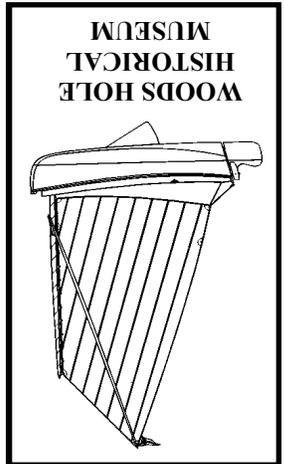
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2012 Visit our website www.woodsholemuseum.org for exact times and additional events

May 3	CONVERSATION: Margie Yamamoto: <i>Japanese Internment Camps in the U.S. during World War II</i>
June 5	2012 Docent Meeting
June 22	Opening reception for members
June 23	Exhibits open for summer season
June 25	Docents' Visit to Martha's Vineyard Museum
July and August	Walking Tours of Woods Hole
July TBA	History and Tales of the Eldridge Tide and Pilot Book
July 21	Auction
August 1	Demonstration: Putting Ships In Bottles
August 2	Annual Meeting, Carriage House, National Academy
August 8	Demonstration: Putting Ships In Bottles
August 11	Workshop: Ships In Bottles
August 15	Demonstration: Putting Ships In Bottles
August TBA	Talk and Tasting: Sippewissett Oysters
September 29	Exhibits close for season



Three Great Boats Available Now
 Our very own "Boat Shop Guys" have recently completed building and/or restoring three fabulous boats. The Swampscott Dory (below left), includes two rowing stations, a centerboard, mast and rudder so that it can be rowed or sailed. Its Spritsail rig, developed by our very own Ryan Schenck, has hand-sewn grommets, and is rigged to the mast and another with hemp line. Very cool! Also for sale is a 17-foot Aleutian style wood and canvas kayak (below right) which weighs just 35 pounds. Very easy to handle. Makes a great gift, too! The third boat is a very special 8-foot rowing and sailing dinghy called a Rookie, a lovingly restored vintage craft designed and built long ago in Buzzards Bay. These boats are very reasonably priced and discounts are available to museum members. Interested? Call the museum or stop by any Saturday morning to talk with one of the Boat Guys.

2012 Membership Drive In High Gear
 Our membership committee, under the leadership of Liz Moakley, has been hard at work updating our records. Special thanks to Perry Coppola for the countless hours she spent entering information into our new database. Be on the lookout for your membership renewal form. **Please send us your email address so you can be informed in a timely matter of events and last-minute cancellations or changes.** Not yet a member? Membership benefits include a subscription to *Spritsail*, our highly recognized twice-annual journal on the history of Falmouth and vicinity, invitations to season opening and holiday parties and other special events; advanced notification on lectures and craft workshops and more. Membership rates are \$30 for an individual, \$50 for a family, \$100 for a patron and \$1000 for a benefactor. To learn more about the benefits of joining the Museum, call us at 508 548-7270 or complete the membership form online at www.woodsholemuseum.org.



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