

Mainsheet

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

Summer 2022

Director's Message

Our lilacs are in bloom, and we await the vibrant colors of our Walsh roses on the museum campus. Summer is coming!

While we may still have to navigate aspects of the pandemic, we are planning several in-person events for the summer. In early June, the museum and library are co-hosting a talk by boat-builders Athena Aicher and Chuck Verbeck; later that month, the museum is hosting a special members-only wine event/fundraiser at a lovely private home in Woods Hole. In August we will have our annual meeting at the Church of the Messiah with a talk by Brian Switzer on the 125th anniversary of the Woods Hole Yacht Club, and then at the end of the month we look forward to our always popular oyster talk and tasting.

During the winter, we kept engaged with our members and friends with our online museum conversations, all of which are available for watching on our website; and archivist Colleen Hurter and I kept writing our Dispatches for you to read online.

We are excited to announce that the Woods Hole Foundation has agreed to fund the publication of our most popular Dispatches in book form! Many of you asked for this, and we are pleased that we will be able to share these stories in print form, to be sold in our gift shop.

This season, in Gallery one, we continue our exhibit of the History of Woods Hole, with new additions to the exhibit, and in Gallery two, "Left Behind: Clues to Life in the Past on Cape Cod." We have added artifacts from our collaborators, Public Archaeology Laboratory.

The Jewel Cobb banner will remain in the hallway as well, a well written display on the amazing story of this African American MBL scientist. For two weeks at the end of June, we will also have artwork on display from Falmouth Public School students highlighting Juneteenth.

We welcome two interns for the season, both with long-standing Woods Hole connections. We are delighted to have Dory Amon return, and we welcome Sophia Pelletreau Butler. And as always, we are fortunate to have our docents and volunteers with us to greet our visitors and tell them about our village history.

We are also pleased to report that Rob Blomberg will again be leading his very popular walking tours of Woods Hole.

And last but not least:

Save the Date: Opening Party for Members, June 17, 5 to 7 PM. See you then!

Deborah G. Scanlon, Executive Director

Aerial photograph of Little Harbor (1971)
by Dorothy I. Crossley



Message from the Chair

These past six months have been a pivotal time for the Woods Hole Historical Museum and we're excited to share the good news.

We were awarded a grant to take part in the Collections Assessment for Preservation Program. This program is run by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works. The program is designed to help small and medium-sized museums receive prioritized recommendations for improving the care of their collections. We are looking forward to receiving and implementing the recommendations as we work to improve our collection's accessibility to the community.

Secondly, we were awarded Community Preservation Act funds from the Town of Falmouth to have a Historic Structures report put together to serve as an official record of our historic buildings; and analysis of their historic significance and condition.

Both these reports taken together will help us plan for the future, improving and preserving our beloved museum for years to come.

We can't wait for the summer of 2022 when we plan to be able to welcome visitors back to the museum to see our exhibits on the History of Woods Hole and our special exhibit on early inhabitants of the region, *Left Behind: Clues to Life in the Past on Cape Cod*.

Save the Date: the museum's opening party is June 17 and opening day is June 18.

If you want to get more involved with the museum, let us know. We are always looking for volunteers to serve as docents and more.

Thank you for your support and we hope to see you soon.

Laura Reckford, chair, Steering Committee

Woods Hole Historical Museum

*A Division of
The Woods Hole Public Library*

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Archivist and Assistant Director

Colleen Hurter

Archives Open

Tuesday and Thursday

10—2

And by Appointment

Exhibits Open

June 18—October 1

Tuesday—Saturday

11-3

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Published by the
Woods Hole Historical Museum

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Deborah Scanlon, Colleen Hurter

Designed by Colleen Hurter

Dorothy I. Crossley Photograph Collection

In January 2022, the museum received an extensive collection of photographs from longtime summer Woods Hole resident, Dorothy (Dottie) Crossley, who passed away in December, 2019.

After graduating from Smith College in 1950, Dottie embarked on a pioneering career as a female sports photojournalist for the next 50 years, documenting countless skiing and sailing events.

She had a home in New Hampshire where she captured the growth of the New England ski industry. She covered the Cape Cod sailing scene for the Falmouth Enterprise and these original photos make up a large part of this donation.. She usually photographed local races on board the WHYC committee boat, Cigana. We're pleased to be able to share some of these historic images.



Photograph by Richard S. Taylor



Things must have gotten pretty breezy during the 1981 Knockabout Nationals in Woods Hole. Cigana captain, Kit Olmsted, assisted one capsized boat by manning the pumps.



In addition to racing, she documented decades of other yacht club events.

Photos from 1951 show fish market owner, Sam Cahoon, at the club house with his trophies. He was renowned as a sailing master and professional skipper.

The 1959 WHYC picnic at Tarpaulin Cove on Naushon Island was a multi-generational affair.



Foul weather did not deter her from taking hurricane pictures, starting in 1944 up to Hurricane Bob.



Hurricane Donna (1960)

Dottie's caption for this photo to the right:

WELL, FOLKS, IT'S GOING TO BLOW!
WHYC Steward Skip Crowell delivers his expertise as Hurricane Bob approaches in 1991



And blow, it did, as anyone who was in the area in August 1991 will remember.



The Penzance guard shack on Bar Neck Road



Dottie's car was not spared



In calmer weather, she was often up in a plane doing aerial shots of the area. This shot from 1959 shows Great Harbor, Penzance Point and the Elizabeth Islands.

Thanks to Dottie's family for providing us with this wonderful and historic collection of photographs

New Gift Shop Manager

We are very pleased to have Sandra Gifford join us as the museum gift shop manager, taking over from Becky Mountford, who did a fantastic job for four years. Many thanks to Becky!

Sandy is married to Greg Gifford, whose Woods Hole roots go back many generations. They married in 1974, when Greg was in the US Army and Sandy was teaching school in Newport News, Virginia. Once Greg was discharged from the service, they moved to Woods Hole.

“Being from a big city, Philadelphia, I was immediately charmed by Woods Hole. I loved every aspect of it,” Sandy said, “While Greg’s career took him far afield, I was busy holding down the home front, raising our three girls and working as an Early Child Care Director, first for the Woods Hole Day Care Coop, then the VNA Child Development Center and finally the U. S. Coast Guard Child Development Center.

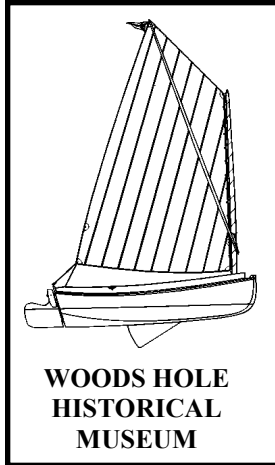


Becky Mountford and Sandy Gifford

“After 32 years I am retired, still holding down the home front but instead of raising our girls (all grown with children of their own), I am busy training a very spirited golden retriever named Max.” We are lucky to have Sandy! Please stop by and say hello when the museum opens June 17!

Calendar for 2022

- June 3 “Local Shipwrights Restoring a 1967 Royal Lowell Clam Boat”.
Conversation with Athena Aicher, 7 PM.(co-hosting with the Woods Hole Public Library).
Chuck Verbeck will host an open house in the Boat Shop prior to the talk, 6 PM
- June 17 Opening party for members, 5 to 7 PM
- June 18 Museum opening day, 11 AM to 3 PM
- June 25 “Afternoon Delight: the Art of Wine” with expert Becky Sue Epstein at a
private home on Church Street. Members only, 4 to 6 PM
- August 2 Annual meeting with talk by Brian Switzer on the Woods Hole Yacht
Club’s 125th anniversary at the Church of the Messiah, 5 PM
- August 26 Oyster Talk and Tasting event, Museum courtyard, 5 to 7 PM



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“Great Harbor is nearly deserted
as this Woods Hole fisherman
tries his luck”
Photograph by Dorothy I.
Crossley. (1968)

