

QUARTERBOARD

CUTTYHUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.org

Serving the Elizabeth Islands Since 1978 ■ Summer Telephone 508.984.4611
23 Tower Hill Road ■ Cuttyhunk, Massachusetts 02713

SUMMER 2008

WE HAVE A NEW MUSEUM DIRECTOR!



Kathryn Balistrieri, the third Museum Director of CHS.

KATHRYN BALISTRIERI is our new Museum Director. She brings eleven years of museum experience to the position. Kathryn worked managing volunteers and visitor services at the Worcester Art Museum, and Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. Most recently she was Executive Director of the Greater Banner Elk Heritage Foundation in Banner Elk, NC where she managed daily museum operations, catalogued the collection, and developed exhibitions. Kathryn also has experience in grant writing and was a state-juried member of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen for eight years as a potter.

During her first visit to Cuttyhunk on a rainy Saturday in mid-March, she said the island was even

better than she had expected! Despite getting thoroughly wet on a golf cart ride around the island and returning to the mainland on Duane Lynch's boat bouncing into a 20-knot northeast wind, she was enthusiastic about the opportunity at CHS.

She wintered on Vinalhaven while studying for a M.Ed. in Guidance and Counseling from Plymouth State College in NH, so she is familiar with island life. Kathryn and her husband are looking forward to relocating to New England and the prospect of spending summers on Cuttyhunk. Rumor has it the Kathryn's husband, Tom, has already been in contact with Bonnie Veeder.

We look forward to welcoming Kathryn and Tom to our island community. 🚤

Note: The CHS includes its first Annual Report as a part of this Quarterboard.

CHS SUMMER OFFERINGS

SUMMER SEEMS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER. Many of you are looking forward to seaside vacations on beautiful Cuttyhunk Island. Our Museum of the Elizabeth Islands will open on Friday, June 27. Special events begin with a festive Opening Party on the Historical Society lawn on Saturday, June 28.

ago, of recycled wooden railroad barges or "car floats" and tons of sand and cobble fill, the storm-damaged beach was essentially rebuilt. Now, after years of exposure, the barges themselves are almost a memory, a casualty of hurricanes and erosion.

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(l to r) Lindley Huey, Edith Huey, and Pam Baldwin at CHS opening party, June 2007.

Allison Thurston has created a compelling new exhibit, **SHIFTING SANDS, RISING SEAS — BARGES BEACH**, a photographic comparison of changing conditions on this Cuttyhunk barrier beach. It includes a narrative about current challenges and possible solutions. With the inventive use, 50 years



Remnants of 13 barges — partially destroyed by the elements on Cuttyhunk Island.

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published twice a year.

Louise Garfield Bachler,
Editor

Museum Director

Kathryn Balistrieri

Shelly Merriam,
Museum Associate

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The purpose of the
Cuttyhunk Historical Society
is to preserve the traditions,
records, and history of the
Elizabeth Islands for the
benefit of present and future
generations. The Society,
launched in 1978, was
incorporated in 1982.

*All photos from CHS collection
unless otherwise credited.*

IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened to
report the passing of
an island friend —

Robert L. "Robin"
Moore, Jr.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE SEARCH COMMITTEE for a new Museum Director had a very busy winter. Committee members Roxy Leeson, Paula DiMare, Paul Elias and myself interviewed more candidates than there were contenders in this year's presidential primaries! I am hopeful that all CHS members will extend a warm welcome to Kathryn Balistrieri and her husband, Tom. By the time you read this newsletter they will be in residence at the CHS apartment.

Thanks to Ace Lombard the apartment has been spruced up with a new floor in the kitchen and living area. Roxy and I replaced mattresses, bedside tables and lamps, linens, and kitchenware. Two older pieces of furniture have been given to Bonnie Veeder and will enjoy a new life after she refinishes them! We also plan to paint the apartment. These improvements were not budgeted, so the expense will be covered by contributions. In addition, a state-of-the-art alarm system has been installed in the building.

I am excited to see our new exhibition on Barges Beach erosion in the conference room. Shelly Merriam and Allie Thurston are working diligently and Kathryn will have joined the effort upon her arrival in mid-May.

We are fortunate to have William Kelso, the lead archaeologist from Jamestown, coming to speak about his work and the discovery of what is generally believed to be Gosnold's burial site. He is looking forward to exploring Cuttyhunk and Martha's Vineyard as Gosnold did centuries ago. Check out the CHS message board once you arrive on island for information on all our activities and opportunities to participate at the museum.

ANN CONWAY

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTRIBUTE



Walton "Sonny" Jenkins with a hefty bass caught off Cuttyhunk in 1938. Sonny's uncle, Francis Jenkins, worked for the Wood family.

FISH STORIES

DO YOU HAVE a photo of the "Big One" that didn't get away for our 2009 exhibit? We are looking for photographs of fishermen, fisherwomen and fisherkids snagging a fish (or trying) off the Elizabeth Islands. You can send your photo — past or present, black and white or color — to CHS.

DO YOU HAVE a favorite Cuttyhunk fishing guide? Would you like to know his tips, secrets, mentors, inspiration and favorite fishing experiences? We need volunteers to interview and photograph our guides for the 2009 fishing exhibit. Contact Shelly to snag the guide you want to interview.

BID NOW!

This summer, we have a **VERY SPECIAL ONGOING SEALED-BID ITEM**. Helen Lee of Bristol, RI, who sells her baskets on Nantucket and elsewhere, has created a Cuttyhunk Basket for us. This large, traditional covered oval handbag has a lid decorated with an ivory carving of Cuttyhunk Island. There is an ivory quarterboard inside for the owner's name.



Look for the unique basket in the museum and at our summer events. Please make a big bid to support the Cuttyhunk Historical Society and become the owner of this one-of-a-kind piece of craftsmanship!

“JAMESTOWN AND CAPTAIN BARTHOLOMEW GOSNOLD, THE BURIED TRUTH”



Jamestown archaeologist William Kelso to visit CHS on August 5, 2008.

WILLIAM KELSO'S CAREER in American historical archaeology began at Williamsburg and Jefferson's Monticello and has peaked in Jamestown. Because he had a theory that the first permanent English settlement of 1607 was not lost to river erosion, as conventional wisdom would have it, in 1993, he persuaded the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) to hire him to find James Fort, on Jamestown Island, Virginia.

He summarizes the discoveries: “The excavation began in 1994, and by 1996, with a small staff of archaeologists I thought I had enough evidence to announce that our crew had discovered the remains of the fort. Since then, we have found the outline of James Fort including the remains of portions of the palisade walls and two bulwarks, as well as several buildings, pits and wells. Over one million objects reflective of life at James Fort have been unearthed so far.” He also excavated a grave thought to be that of Bartholomew Gosnold.

The APVA wanted to make a significant contribution to the 400th anniversary in 2007 of the founding of Jamestown. In early May 2007, that contribution became a reality witnessed by Queen Elizabeth, President George W. Bush, the Governor of Virginia and thousands of visitors. The project has also attracted global media attention, and has provided the CHS with valuable information about Bartholomew Gosnold, who sailed among the Elizabeth Islands in 1602. ▲

CHS SUMMER OFFERINGS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

BARTHOLOMEW GOSNOLD: CUTTYHUNK TO JAMESTOWN, 1602-1607 continues for a second summer. You will explore and experience English Captain Gosnold's voyages to New England and Virginia. The exhibit looks at how the experience of Gosnold's New England voyage in 1602 prepared him for the later voyage to establish an English colony at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607.

We have planned a wonderful program of events for you to enjoy over the summer months. There will be an **“EXPLORE THE ISLANDS” CHILDREN'S CRUISE**, based on the success of the evening tour for adults last summer. Allison Thurston will narrate the tour on the *M/V Cuttyhunk* on Wednesday afternoon, July 23. The popular **OPEN HOUSE AT THE TARPAULIN COVE LIGHTHOUSE** follows on August 3.

On Tuesday, August 5, **WILLIAM KELSO**, APVA Director of Archaeology at Historic Jamestown, will speak. Kelso is responsible for uncovering the “lost” James Fort and in rediscovering much of Jamestown's history. Dr. Kelso and his wife will spend two nights on island and are looking forward to learning about Gosnold's New England experience.

Stuart Frank and Mary Malloy will join us on August 30. This widely known husband and wife team of **TRADITIONAL SEA MUSIC** performers has entertained on the island before and looks forward to returning. We're anticipating a delightful evening of music and refreshments at the Fishing Club.

Stuart has connections to both the New Bedford Whaling Museum and the Kendall Whaling Museum in Sharon, MA. Mary, Professor of Maritime Humanities at the Sea Education Association in Woods Hole, also teaches Museum Studies at Harvard, and is an Associate at Harvard's Peabody Museum and Advisory Curator at the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

SANDY EARLE
OUTGOING MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Annual Meeting

The **Annual Meeting of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society, Inc.** will be held at 9:30 a.m. on **Saturday August 16, 2008, at the Cuttyhunk Church.** All members are invited to attend.

SEEKING HISTORY KEEPERS

CHS has ongoing projects, interviews, and transcriptions to record the islands' stories for now and the future. We are looking to entice writers of the popular monographs, editors of occasional books, photographers and filers to work—any time of the year! Suggested topics are always welcome. Please direct queries to your editor, Weezie Garfield Bachler, 18 Shagbark Hill, Putney VT 05346 or phone: 802.387.5548.

CHECK OUT THE EXPANDED WEB SITE OF CUTTYHUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hal Granger explains his vision for the CHS Web site:

"It can serve two roles. Firstly — the normal, effective Web site role — the Web site can provide information to members (summer 2008 schedules, contact information, news, etc.) and at the same time promote a sense of community among members (especially valuable for our Cuttyhunk community with people often off Island). Secondly — an unusual and developing Web site role — the CHS Web site can help to further the purpose of the CHS by serving as an on-line exhibit room. Currently, fifteen extraordinary research Monographs can be found on the new "Monograph" page of the new site. And, past CHS exhibits, instead of fading from our memories, can be shown on the Web, effectively continuing their time on display (Janet Wilder's wonderful summer 2007 Cuttyhunk Images exhibit will become our first virtual exhibit). It is this second role as a virtual exhibit room that seems especially compelling as we develop your CHS Web site."

The Web address has changed to


www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.org



BLACK SEA BASS STOCK REPLENISHMENT PROJECT

A GROUP OF SCIENTISTS has chosen the Weepecket Islands as the site for an aquaculture study. The project responds to declining fisheries in the Northeast and aims to be a model for alleviating two competing pressures: the need for fish stocks to rebuild, and the need for fishermen to make a living.

In May 2008, they released 5,000 cultured black sea bass into a mesh "Aqua-Dome" secured to the sea floor. Soon the fish will be freed to populate the surrounding rocky habitat while feeding at the Aqua-Dome. Before the fish get the impulse to migrate to warmer waters in October 2008, the scientists will corral and scan them in the Aqua-Dome to estimate their number, size, and weight.

Analysis of tagged fish caught by fishermen will measure the success of the project. Scott Lindell is the Project Leader at the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory; Steve Page of Ocean Farm Technologies lent the Aqua-Dome. Funding comes from NOAA. 

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Nashawena Island picnic: Coast Guard boys and Gladys Snow, Joan Veeder, Shirley Reynolds and Sallie Tilton, circa 1937. Photo by Wilfred Tilton, in CHS collection.




Henry Tilton (standing) and Norwood Tilton (sitting at right) with unknown companion in days of yore.



Ebony, with white sea weed, found on Cuttyhunk by Mary Hatfield Lucas in 2006. Photo by Lexi Lynch

TWO SEPARATE SCHOONER WRECKS along the south shore of Cuttyhunk were the source of the beachcomber's treasure, pieces of ebony destined to become black piano keys. The first cargo may have come from the wreck of the *Dolphin*, en route from the Caribbean, on November 10, 1854. The *H.M. Fisher*, bound from Haiti to Boston, carried 58 tons of ebony logs when disaster struck on December 7, 1871.

from Records of Wrecks on or near Cuttyhunk, Nov. 1854–Oct. 1961.

CHARLES A. LINDBERGH, following a lead in the desperate search for his kidnapped son, landed his plane on Cuttyhunk Pond on April 3, 1932. Herbert Stetson rowed Lindbergh ashore as they tracked a mystery boat named *Sallie* that may have been cruising in the westernmost Elizabeth Islands. 

From newspaper clippings in Margaret Brewer's scrapbook, CHS collection.