

# QUARTERBOARD

CUTTYHUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.org

Serving the Elizabeth Islands Since 1978 ■ Summer Telephone 508.984.4611

P.O. Box 181 ■ Cuttyhunk, Massachusetts 02713

SUMMER 2011

## SUMMER EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM



Hello Friends of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society:

I am so pleased to begin my fourth season as director of the Museum of the Elizabeth Islands. As I write this I am anticipating the joy that is summer on Cuttyhunk after a winter of planning. Each spring holds such promise of times so wonderful that it is not an exaggeration to use the phrase, 'the halcyon days of summer.'

But I think we've all wondered what it's *really* like out here in winter, imagining the wind and grey, the chill, and the deep sense of solitude. The word *isolation* means anything that is set apart from others; a sub-definition is a lonely or uninhabited place. This summer's new exhibit, [Ice and Isolation: The Islands in Winter](#), explores island life during the winter months. Areas of focus include the island school, winter storms and shipwrecks, island farms, and ice cutting. The exhibit is unfolding through the helpful contributions of photographs and objects from many of the Elizabeth Islands. At this time, I am happily researching and writing text panels to correspond to the fascinating objects that we're bringing together.

The exhibit, [Model Boats of the Elizabeth Islands](#), continues for its second season. We are launching—assisted by the Cuttyhunk Yacht Club—two model boat regattas in the style of the historic Bennet Yacht Club race on Naushon, one to be held on July 16th and another on August 13th. Boat kits are available for purchase at the CHS or build your own to register in the "homemade" class—the only restriction is that all boats must be 12" long. Details are on our website. [www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.org)

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*CHS director, Paula DiMare, taking down buoys on the Museum porch before Hurricane Earl, September 2010.*

### MODEL BOAT REGATTAS

July 16th and August 13th, 2011

Haven't had a chance to paint a model boat for the regatta? The Thursday before each regatta we are offering a workshop to paint a boat, complete with assistance rigging it—for both youth and adults.

The day before the July regatta, guest speakers [Tom and Kit Gregg—Bennet Yacht Club commodore, conservator and longtime race participants](#)—will give a talk on the history of the Bennet Yacht Club and on model boats, followed by a hands-on practice session to set sails and improve racing skills. The more the merrier, so please get a boat together and join the fun!



Cuttyhunk  
Historical  
Society

Annual meeting:  
Saturday,  
August 20th  
9 am at the  
Cuttyhunk  
Church

**CUTTYHUNK  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY, INC.**

*Serving the Elizabeth Islands*  
P.O. Box 181  
Cuttyhunk Island,  
MA 02713  
Summer Telephone:  
508.984.4611

**Quarterboard** is the news-  
letter of the Cuttyhunk  
Historical Society and is  
published twice a year.

Louise Garfield, *Editor*

**Museum Director**

Kathryn Balistreri

**Directors 2010–2011**

Roxy Leeson, *President*  
Nancy Twichell, *Vice President*  
Gail Blout, *Secretary*  
Ann Conway, *Treasurer*

Bruce Bagley  
Sukey Forbes Bigham  
Paula H. DiMare  
Karen Nemiah  
Arne Olsen  
Kathleen Patton  
Ned Prevost  
Robert Smith  
Cindy Spengler  
Joe Twichell  
David Warr



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 REPORT** the recent pass-  
ing of these island friends:

**Peter Coope**

Mildred J. Fullerton, propri-  
etor of Cuttyhunk's Allen  
House from the mid 1960s  
to the mid 1980s.

Virginia "Ginna" Gingrass,  
widow of longtime sea plane  
pilot Norman Gingrass.

Mary Sarmiento

## NOTES FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Greetings from another rainy day in South Natick!

What a wonderful summer CHS has planned for you and your family! There is something for everyone. A wonderful new exhibit, children's workshops, adult workshops, model boat races, poetry reading, book signing, lectures, wonderful new items in the Museum Shop, and so much more. We can hardly wait to get started.

And speaking of getting started, please come to the opening party!

Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share and we will provide the bar. This is always a wonderful event; a great time and place to meet up with old and new Cuttyhunk friends for the first time in 2011. The Museum and Shop will be open for your enjoyment.

Our Museum Director and our volunteer Board of Directors, docents, and other contributors are the sources of our accomplishments. Please let us know if you have time or talent to share with us.

I hope that renewing your CHS membership (or becoming a member for the first time) is on your "To Do" list. David Warr, our Membership Chairperson is always eager to hear from you (184 High St., Wareham, MA 02571). It is only through membership, Shop sales, and our Annual Appeal that we are able to offer such a rich ten weeks of activities each summer.

I look forward to seeing you in and around the Museum. Please let me know if you have any ideas, concerns, or just want to chat about our amazing community.

May the sun shine!

ROXY LEESON

ANNUAL OPENING  
COCKTAIL PARTY  
&  
AUCTION  
SATURDAY, JULY 2ND  
AT 5:00 PM



*This handpainted floorcloth, from an  
original design by Tricia Mansfield,  
will be auctioned. (Donated by the  
artist.)*

## FOND FAREWELLS

One again the Society has lost a beloved founder. **Peter Coope**, Navy man, master carpenter, and number cruncher, died in early April. He kept track of every penny going into the Capital Fund Drive for the museum and, once the building was finished, became board president (1991–1995). Working with Smoke Twichell, the new curator, and Carolyn Powers, the first manager, he oversaw growth in the Museum's collection, exhibits, and financial aspects. He steadily steered CHS on a new course and shall be missed by all.

KITSY GARFIELD

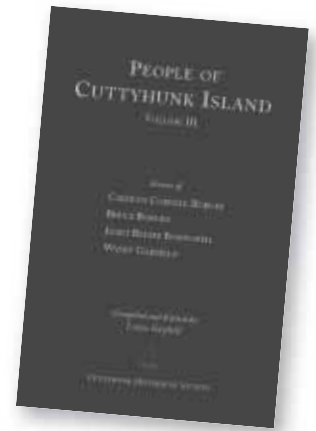


**Mary Sarmiento**, caretaker of Nashawena Island, with husband Manny. She lived a full life of farming, sheep raising, and people loving. Her later years on Cuttyhunk (in the house now owned by Grant Schenck and Cathy Ford) included library support and blueberry pies at the Church Fairs. She was 100. 🌊

## MUSEUM SHOP EXPANDS

**CHS VOLUNTEERS** Libby Anderson and Nina Brodeur have adopted the Museum Shop. As both are former shop owners, they bring their buying and displaying expertise to our Shop, and thanks to them we will have many new items, including candles, necklaces, and ornaments with the catboat logo, plus Nantucket-style basket purses and many other choices. We will continue to have a good selection of marine-related books, maps, and nature guides. And, during the summer we will begin to accept major credit cards.

The Museum Shop is also pleased to offer a new CHS publication. “*People III*” features Carolyn and Bruce Borges, CHS founder Janet Bosworth (who published *People I* and *II* in the 1980s) and Wye Garfield. This compilation of transcribed interviews and photos from the CHS archives provides a glimpse of times past. Oral history is an important part of the CHS mission. The paperback book will be offered, hot off the press, for \$10.00, along with *People I* and *II*. [▲](#)



*CHS's latest publication*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

*An early island July 4th parade, notated “Harry Ball and daughter, 1940.” Your help is needed to tell the full story!*



## DOCENT AND VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

**5** Years

Kassie Garfield  
Karen Nemiah  
Allison Thurston

**10** Years

Pam Baldwin  
David Frothingham  
Roxy Leeson  
Jane MacLeod

**15** Years:

Ann Conway  
Barbara Dorr  
Shelly Merriam  
Ned Prevost  
Gerritt Stamford  
Kate Tabor

**20** Years

Bev Prevost

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**Joe Twichell** is a Cuttyhunk summer resident who lives in Pawcatuck, CT. He is married to Anne (Goodrich) Twichell and has two daughters, Laura and Julia. A furniture builder and restorer, he has worked for himself and, in the past, for Historic New England. Joe and Annie can be found about the island, usually in July, walking their dogs, Shelby and Bix, paddling their kayaks, and visiting family at the Goodrich house—Island Lodge.

**Bruce Bagley**, retired superintendent of Naushon Island, continues to live there with his wife Wendy. He arrived at Naushon in 1964. With a longtime interest in history, and especially local histories, he has experienced some of the life that we now are charged with preserving. He looks forward to broadening his knowledge of history—and its preservation—of all the islands.

**Kathleen Patton** a Boston-area pediatrician, rents on Cuttyhunk with her husband and son, and doctors at the Avalon. She is a CHS docent and is active in the Cuttyhunk Yacht Club. [▲](#)



*Joe Twichell*



*Kathleen Patton at museum greeter's desk*

*Summer Events at the Museum, continued from page 1*

CHS is also pleased to host former Allen House proprietor, Margo Solod, with a reception and reading of her newly published memoir, *Cuttyhunk: Life on the Rock*. (July 7 and August 11).

The **youth workshops** continue in July on Wednesday afternoons, thanks to Anne Kimball. Topics include making wind chimes, fish printing, sailors' valentines, and making a checkerboard. We are also hosting a second "adults only" workshop, plant printing. Come for a glass of wine and creative play. (July 5)

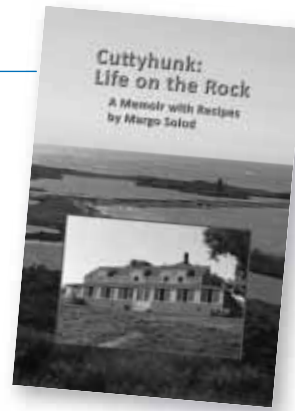
After piloting a tour here last August, we will offer **walking tours** of the island, featuring 15 historic sites and significant views, Saturdays at 10:45 AM beginning in July. The tour takes approximately an hour and a half of hilly walking.

Our mission states that we are "devoted to the preservation, interpretation, and exhibition of materials related to the Elizabeth Islands." It is an honor to be entrusted with oversight of such a responsibility. Looking ahead 100 years, what people understand of life on Cuttyhunk is dependent on what we save, preserve, and create a historical record for. This year, entirely due to the capable leadership of Louise "Weezie" Garfield, we have added to this record with the publication of *People of Cuttyhunk Island, Volume III*.

I always am pleased at the outpouring of support for the work of the Historical Society. I am aware that at its best Cuttyhunk provides a break from structure, schedules, and commitments; it a true act of generosity that our volunteers give of their time to promote the educational work of this organization. That said, we always have tasks that we are grateful for volunteers to complete—so please stop by if you have an interest to get more information on ways you can help.

Happy Summer!

KATHRYN BALISTRERI,  
DIRECTOR



*The popular fish print workshop on the Museum lawn, with t-shirts hanging on the porch and fence, summer 2010. The workshop will be repeated this summer.*

## DONATION TO CHS

We are pleased to accept into our permanent collection an oil painting, gift of New Bedford artist, Robert Duff. The 15" x 35.5" painting depicts the Alert entering the channel on a summer's day. The painting will be on view during our opening party on July 2nd.



## HISTORIC WALKING TOUR OF CUTTYHUNK

Join a docent-led guided tour of the historic sites and sights of Cuttyhunk, offered on Saturdays — July 9, 23, and 30 and August 6 and 20. The tours leave from the Cuttyhunk Historical Society porch at 10:45 AM.

The tour takes approximately an hour and a half of walking on hilly ground and in bright sunshine. Please wear a hat, sunglasses, good walking shoes, and bring your spirit of adventure along with a bottle of water.

Reservations are not required but emailing or calling ahead of time (even while on the ferry over) will be appreciated.

508.984.4611

Suggested donation \$5.00 per person.