

# QUARTERBOARD

CUTTYHUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Serving the Elizabeth Islands Since 1978 • Summer Telephone 508.984.4611

23 Tower Hill Road • Cuttyhunk, Massachusetts 02713

WINTER 2008

## SUMMER 2007 RECAP



*Cuttybunker Casey Doran is dressed as a cabin boy aboard Gosnold's ship the Godspeed in 1607. Casey sits on the bunk atop barrels of dried provisions, with a chamber pot handy.*

IN 2007 we had two very successful exhibits in the museum. *Bartholomew Gosnold, Cuttyhunk to Jamestown 1602–1607*, compared Gosnold's 1602 voyage to New England with the Jamestown journey five years later. Shelly Merriam, Museum Associate for Exhibits, developed the exhibit, while Allison Thurston contributed much to both research and production. It was planned for families, with both hands-on activities and a wealth of historical information, and guests of all ages gave it rave reviews. The exhibit will continue in 2008, when author William Kelso of Historic Jamestowne will speak at our island museum.



*Carolyn Powers (left) narrating the history and nature tour aboard the M/V Cuttyhunk on this evening cruise from Cuttyhunk to Tarpaulin Cove and back.*

The Akin Room featured Janet Wilder's beautiful and poignant photographs — views of Cuttyhunk, past events and people. Janet was able to help us select the photos before her death in April 2007, and we were so pleased that her family and many friends, on the island for her memorial service, could see the exhibit.

### SPECIAL EVENTS AT CHS

For a small community CHS offers amazing entertainments! Our speakers were Karle Schlieff, an independent scholar, who came to expand our knowledge of Bartholomew Gosnold. Schlieff gave CHS

the first printing (1856) of William Bradford's original *History of Plymouth Plantation*. Richard LaMotte, author of the lovely book *Pure Sea Glass*, spoke to a standing-room-only audience in the Town Hall and shared sea glass origins with island collectors.

**EXPLORE THE ISLANDS** was a highlight. Former CHS manager Carolyn Powers gave a guided history and nature tour aboard the *M/V Cuttyhunk* on this evening cruise from Cuttyhunk to Tarpaulin Cove and back. We all had a wonderful time, enjoying lovely refreshments and a soft rose sunset.

Two other trips fell on a gorgeous August weekend perfect for island hopping! One group traveled aboard John Paul Hunter's *Seaborne* to Penikese, where Toby Lineaweaver, Executive Director of the Penikese Island School, offered a tour and lunch. The Open House at Tarpaulin Cove Lighthouse on

*continued on page 3*

### ANNUAL REPORT

With the Summer 2008 *Quarterboard*, CHS will include an annual report listing donors to the Tarpaulin Lighthouse Fund and 2007 In Memoriam gifts — formerly included in *Quarterboard* — and to the annual appeal.

### WWW.CUTTYHUNKHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM

The CHS website, [www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.com) continues to expand thanks to Hal Granger. Hal tallied the monthly page views in 2007: total views were 4,056, with July the busiest month, at 641. Many of the the past CHS Monographs now are accessible on line. The CHS Website Committee will continue to add photos and consider other content. 🚩

## CUTTYHUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

*Serving the Elizabeth Islands*  
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Summer Telephone:  
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**Quarterboard** is the news-  
letter of the Cuttyhunk  
Historical Society and is  
published twice a year.

Louise Garfield Bachler,  
*Editor*

### Museum Director

Alexandra Earle  
Shelly Merriam,  
*Museum Associate*

### Directors 2007–2008

Ann Conway, *President*  
Roxy Leeson, *Vice President*  
Tess Goodwin, *Treasurer*  
Gail Blout, *Secretary*

Suki Forbes Bigham  
Paula H. DiMare  
Chris Hart  
Anne Kimball  
Kris Lombard  
Lexi Lynch  
Ned Prevost  
Robert Smith  
Mary Todd  
Dawn Vogt  
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 specified.*

## IN MEMORIAM

**WE REPORT** with sad-  
ness the recent passing  
of these island friends:

Paul Conley  
Gordon MacLeod  
Thomas Perini  
Joe Pitts  
George A. Stetson  
Lelia Treffeisen

# PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

**ONCE THE WINTER QUARTERBOARD GOES TO PRESS** I know I can start to count the days to our Cuttyhunk summer! We will be able to enjoy the exhibit on Bartholomew Gosnold for another season. It received rave reviews, and the "touch trail" for children was particularly appreciated. Our Exhibit Committee has proposed keeping our exhibits for two years but staggering the plan for the main room and the Akin Conference Room so that there is a new exhibit every summer. The Board of Directors approved this proposal at our August 2007 meeting. This summer's new exhibit, *Shifting Sands-Rising Seas: Barges Beach*, will focus on the dilemma of erosion on this man-made beach on Cuttyhunk.

We say a fond farewell to John Moore and Paul Elias who left the Board of Directors in August. John had been on the Board for 20 years and had served as our Clerk for the last decade at least. Paul was our first Naushon director and was instrumental both in the CHS acquisition of the license for the Tarpaulin Cove Lighthouse and in the fundraising that made recent renovations possible.



*Sandy Earle departs after  
5½ years as the CHS  
Museum Director*

We are also saying goodbye to our Museum Director, Sandy Earle. Sandy has been an extremely dependable steward for CHS and the Museum. In a quiet and unassuming way she expanded the museum shop and has brought in impressive profits. Sandy's writing skills have been appreciated on exhibition labels. We will miss her. Sandy and her husband Mars will be our guests at the Fishing Club next summer. A Search Committee has been interviewing candidates. We hope to introduce our new director in the Summer *Quarterboard*.

In the meantime, let's enjoy winter while we count the days till we meet again on Cuttyhunk!

ANN CONWAY, CHS PRESIDENT


## CHS FUNDS ISLAND CHURCH PRESERVATION

In keeping with its mission to preserve island history, the CHS board voted at its August 2007 meeting to make a \$5,000 contribution to the Cuttyhunk Church roof repair. The 152- year-old church has withstood numerous major hurricanes — 1938, Carol, Bob, and others. Since the Cuttyhunk Historical Society began under the auspices of the church, which first supported the idea of an Historical Society and made a donation to get it started, support has come full circle.

ROXY LEESON



## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**WE WELCOME TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS**, Suki Forbes Bigham and Tess Goodwin. Suki is our new representative from Naushon Island. She replaces Paul Elias and comes with his enthusiastic endorsement. She is looking forward to becoming more familiar with Cuttyhunk Island and CHS. She already has assisted David Warr with updates to our membership list and is eager to contribute to other initiatives, that involve Naushon and others of the Elizabeth Islands. Tess Goodwin is well known to many Cuttyhunkers as she has spent most summers of her life on the island and with her husband, Jeff, bought the Lazears' former home on Copicut Neck a few years ago. Serving as CHS Treasurer, Tess is well-equipped for this position from her job as an accountant. 



*Tess Goodwin (left) and Suki Forbes  
Bigham join the CHS Board in  
August 2007*

## SUMMER 2007 RECAP, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Naushon Island was the following day, and also drew an enthusiastic gathering. We are grateful to Paul Elias for hosting the open house at the lighthouse.

### THANKS TO ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Two Volunteer Information mornings primed new and returning volunteers for the new season.

- Dawn Vogt and her hospitality committee coordinated the opening party and other events.
- Exhibits came together with help from Libby Anderson, Bill Archer, Ann Conway, Paula DiMare, Dave and Audrey Lok, Jay Merriam, Mary Todd, Dave and Nancy Twichell, Robin Younger, Tamara Wilder and Tammy Zimbone.



*The annual fence painting, led by Chris Hart (left) signals the start of summer at CHS. Photo: Ann Conway*

- Twenty-three docents were very generous with their time. Their friendliness and knowledge made the museum experience welcoming and rewarding for everyone.

Weezie Bachler did an outstanding job as Publications Chair, with monographs on Bartholomew Gosnold and the Homer brothers last winter, as well as two *Quarterboards*, and ambitious projects for the future.

Museum attendance was counted at 3,671, a bit lower than in 2006. Group visits included the Rhode Island College class on “New England and the Sea;” five Elderhostel groups; and the Edgartown Yacht Club. Our volunteers graciously greeted passengers on the dock, talked with them in the museum and provided golf cart transportation, all of which was very much appreciated by the visitors.

Volunteers were active in many other ways, from helping with computer and office projects, to gardening, fence painting, and maintenance...and celebration! Volunteer Appreciation Luncheons were hosted by Roxy Leeson and Paula DiMare.

Thank you to Ann Conway and the Board of Directors, and to all the volunteers, for their organizing, their counsel and their willingness to pitch in in so many ways.

SANDY EARLE  
MUSEUM DIRECTOR

### VOLUNTEER ACCOLADES

The Society honors the following loyal docents:

#### Five Years of Service

Mars Earle  
Anne Kimball  
Karen Nemiah  
Joan Warr  
David Warr

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#### ALLIE THURSTON

received the President's Volunteer Service Award, presented annually to volunteers, not Board members, who have contributed exceptional service to the museum. She was honored for research and exhibit development for the natural history exhibit (2005–06) and the current Gosnold (2007–08) exhibit.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



*Cuttybunk islanders meet the icebound Alert, 1937. Rope lines were used to pull the skiff loaded with freight from the ferry to shore.*




*Ice cutters at the Wash Pond, 1916. Marion Smith (center) holds the ice saw and her uncle Tom Dowling (right) holds the fork for prying ice blocks apart. The Cuttybunk Fishing Club's demand for summer ice required ice cutting and storage in large icehouses. Islanders diked the Wash Pond in 1864 to hold fresh water for ice-making.*

## NEW ENGLAND MUSEUM ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

**SHELLY MERRIAM PRESENTED** a program at the New England Museum Association 2007 conference in Portland, Maine in November. She co-chaired a session entitled “Raising the Questions: A New Look at Exhibit Design Basics for the Small Museum”, based on our museum exhibits.


When Shelly called for questions, there was respectful silence. One person remarked. . . “I have no questions but rather a comment. I am in awe of what you and your volunteers accomplish at a small seasonal museum!”

“CHS made quite an impression on representatives from New England museums,” reported Carolyn Powers, Director of the Falmouth Historical Society and former CHS museum manager. 



**ON THE WIND**, Norman Fortier’s long-awaited book of marine photographs, arrived in our store after the museum had closed for the season. This handsome book devotes one chapter to Cuttyhunk and another to The Islands. Selected from Fortier’s recent major retrospective exhibit at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, the images display Fortier’s “deep roots in New Bedford, his intense love of Buzzards Bay, the Elizabeth Islands, and surrounding waters, and his uncanny ability to depict the complex interrelationship of humans, boats and the sea.”

To order this book, contact Sandy Earle at [marsalex@aol.com](mailto:marsalex@aol.com), (401) 351-2377, 94 Benefit St., Providence, RI 02904.

The cost is \$40, plus \$5 for shipping/handling. Please make checks payable to Cuttyhunk Historical Society. 

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new members who joined in 2007:

Toni Bandrowicz &  
David Quill  
Anne Forbes  
Gordon R. MacLeod, III  
Miles & Margaret  
Maiden  
John & Janet Packer  
Scott & Mary Robins  
Roger & Rebecca  
Williams

## SEEKING HISTORY KEEPERS

CHS has ongoing projects, interviews, and transcriptions to record the islands’ history and islanders’ stories for the future. We are looking to entice writers, photographers, compilers, and filers, to help with the popular monographs, and occasional books — to work any time of the year! It is a challenge to work through all the stages of any given project during the short summer.

Please direct queries to your editor, Weezie Garfield Bachler, by email [weezrock52@yahoo.com](mailto:weezrock52@yahoo.com), mail: 18 Shagbark Hill, Putney VT 05346 or phone: 802.387.5548. Suggestions are always welcome.



*Islanders Bets Sanford, Anne Goodrich, Dawn Vogt, and Paula DiMare gather on the Museum lawn at the CHS opening party.*

## AUCTION 2007

A sealed-bid auction at the opening party replaced the raffle. We are grateful to the donors, and happy for the high bidders:

Kathleen Patton for two pair of 1st edition Audubon shorebird lithographs (High bids: Ken Williams and Sue Martin),

Susan Wick for her lovely starfish necklace (High bid: Sue Walker), and

Michael Riley for a framed panoramic photograph of Cuttyhunk (High bid: Mel Dorr).