

# 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

WINTER 2011

## NOTES FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT



*Wye Garfield adjusts the rigging on Shenandoah, a model lent to the museum by the Forbes, and used for rigging practice for several generations.*



*Roxy Leeson, with grandson Sawyer, is the new President of the CHS Board. In her words, "My involvement with CHS all started with Carolyn Powers when she suggested that I might like to become a docent. Before I knew it I was hooked into this fascinating and fun organization and was asked to serve on the board. I chaired Hospitality and served on the Museum Committee and the Museum Director Search Committee. I spent the last four years serving as Vice President under Ann Conway."*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** By the time you receive this issue of the *Quarterboard*, we will have rung in a new year and the summer of 2011 will be on the horizon. I can almost smell the honeysuckle now!

What a summer it will be with our new exhibit, **Ice and Isolation**, and the continuation of **Boat Models of the Elizabeth Islands** in the Akin Conference Room. Kathryn and her team have already spent countless hours working on design, text, and selection of photographs and items to be on display.

Plans are also underway for our first Model Boat Regattas: one in July and one in August. I hope you are all working hard on your model boats. What fun it will be to see all of the entries and to cheer them on in the harbor.

At our annual meeting in August we said goodbye to Directors Kris Lombard, Lexi Lynch, and Tess Goodwin, after many years of service on our board. Kris wore a number of hats including that of Treasurer and always with a smile. Lexi took us into the new age of technology with Internet and email. Tess brought professional expertise to the job of Treasurer. We will be forever grateful for their time and talents.

At the same time I want to welcome our new Directors, **Joe Twichell**, **Bruce Bagley**, and **Kathleen Patton**. I look forward to discovering their interests and gifts.

And last, but by no means least, I want to thank Ann Conway for her amazing leadership over the past four years. I so enjoyed being her Vice President. We worked hard and laughed even harder. Ann's devotion to CHS has always gone above and beyond. This devotion continues as she has agreed to be Treasurer until August 2011.

It is my honor to work with all of you to support this organization that means so much to the Gosnold community, and I look forward to our journey together. For now, stay warm, watch the days grow longer, and start planning your gardens.

ROXY LEESON, PRESIDENT

### MODEL BOAT REGATTAS

July 16th and August 13th, 2011

Cuttyhunk Harbor

Sponsored by CHS & Cuttyhunk Yacht Club

All ages welcome



*The regatta boat model from the kit.*

Two classes of boats—all must be 12" in length

1. Boats made from a kit purchased through the CHS website
2. Homemade boats or the purchased kit with modifications

*Continued,  
page 4*

**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  
passing of these island  
friends:

Karen Brown Davis  
Flora Hall Lovell

## NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Members and Friends:

Writing to you in mid-winter is always a trigger for memories of Cuttyhunk. Except for the stormy March day I interviewed on Cuttyhunk, all my memories are of summer and early fall, but this winter I'm immersed in images and stories of winters on the islands for next summer's front room exhibit, [Ice and Isolation: the Islands in Winter](#).

Imagine the harbor on a warm summer afternoon, the sounds of rigging slapping, white clouds above and a gentle breeze. Now add to this image a row of skiffs and prams forming a starting line and many little model sloops with bright-colored sails bobbing through the waves, cheered on by excited (young and old) sailors. This summer CHS initiates the [Cuttyhunk Historical Society Model Boat Regattas](#), assisted by the [Cuttyhunk Yacht Club](#). There is still plenty of time to get involved. We are selling model boat kits (see ordering information in box, page 4).

You can also make your own or modify a kit with the only stipulation that they all must be 12" long. A model boat-painting workshop will be held close to the events for those who didn't get around to making their model in the winter. Registration information for the regatta will be posted on our website.

Last year's season was a fun and successful one for CHS—well over 3,000 visitors came to our exhibits and programs. We had a series of youth craft workshops and an adult fish printing evening event. New workshops will be offered next summer, so check the website for details as the winter progresses.

We reconvened the Museum Committee and benefited from the advice of many in planning the regatta and the pilot of the CHS guided walking tour of the island. Thank you for your time and perspective.

Our docents and volunteers continue to bring enthusiasm and new ideas—you are what makes being at CHS special and fun. I can't thank you enough for the time you offer us. And I am so pleased to have welcomed many new docents who keep the group thriving.

Have a safe and happy winter. Looking forward to seeing you next summer.

KATHRYN BALISTRERI, MUSEUM DIRECTOR

## SCENES FROM SUMMER 2010



*Serena Davis Hall works with youngsters making seaweed notecards.*



*Libby Anderson (left) and Nina Brodeur (right) expand and redesign the shop in time for the museum opening.*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

*World War II gathering of Coast Guard and Army servicemen with islanders, Town Hall on Cuttybunk.*

*Please stop at the Museum and help us identify any of the people that you can and the occasion that brought them together.*



## CHS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2010

THE CHS PRESIDENT'S APPRECIATION AWARD was awarded to Katharine "Kitsy" Garfield at the August annual meeting. Besides serving as secretary and president of the CHS Board of Directors in the early years, she has been an extraordinarily loyal docent. Over the past 15 years, Kitsy has kept track of gifts and acted as corresponding secretary. Her many years of involvement have benefited CHS in so many ways.



*Kitsy Garfield*

## NEW MEMBERS


WE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED CHS IN 2010

Timothy & Judith Buckeridge  
Nina Brodeur  
Karl & Jeanne Hinrichs  
Charles Martin  
Marie Esten  
Stephanie Trott

## CHS INTERN PRESENTS RESEARCH

KAITLYN SHERIDAN gave a slide presentation for CHS covering her thesis research for a masters degree in American History from Oxford University. Her focus was on why some key figures in history go unnoticed; Bartholemew Gosnold was one such person.

She recognized that early historical records were often written by people who participated in actual events—though often written much later in life. This creates a perspective bias, both with the limit-

ed viewpoint of any given writer and the diminished details of events remembered years later. Gosnold, who died within months of arriving at Jamestown, never wrote a narrative of his voyages—and those who did focused on their own experiences. Thus Gosnold lost his place in the history books. 



*Model Boat Regattas, continued from page 1*

The kit for a 12" racing sloop includes full assembly instructions, a solid cedar hull, 2 nylon cloth sails (mainsail and jib), painted zinc keel, mast, set of racing stripes, and all necessary hardware. It also comes with a sailor's handbook of knots, sailing tips, terminology, and a sailing lesson.

The kits are available to purchase now for \$30 each (a great discount from the suggested retail of \$46) plus shipping: \$6 (east of) and \$10 (west of) the Mississippi River. Please email Kathryn with questions about shipping discounts for multiple kits sent to the same address.

Order by: emailing [kbalistrieri@yahoo.com](mailto:kbalistrieri@yahoo.com) with your name,



address, and the number of boats you are ordering (so she can have sufficient quantities).

Send a check with ordering information to:

Kathryn Balistrieri  
1040 Bull Run Crossing  
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Once the check is received, she will mail your kit(s).

Boats must register to receive an identifying number. Details will be posted on our website as summer gets closer: [www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.org)

## DONNA VEEDER HUNTER—VIGNETTES



*Donna Veeder Hunter and Princess*

**EVERYONE EVENTUALLY KNOWS DONNA, CUTTYHUNK'S UNOFFICIAL GREETER.** In her golf cart, often with her dog Princess, Donna stops to say hello to islanders and visitors alike.

"I take handicapped, disabled or elderly people for a tour by approaching and saying 'I need company, do you think you'd like to ride around?'"

She also helps drive visiting birders and artists around, showing favorite views and helps them choose a spot for a painting... and answers questions, shares memories and news of the day, and laughs! She reports that some of her impromptu passengers have given her little tiny presents or even a painting.

Donna collects from the beaches and "lays things up in the winter." She may carve, wood burn, paint, or perhaps use baby quahog shells to make a bird or glue shells onto objects such as key racks.

And of course she is a lifetime fisherwoman. As a youngster she had her own mahogany speedboat, "the most beautiful boat you've ever seen for its 13 feet." She boasts, "It was the second fastest in the harbor, and I flew when it was calm." She also had a skiff when she was ten, and used it to collect garbage from boats in the harbor. Her favorite hangout was the Fish Dock with "the old people," including cousin Coot Hall, where she took in the stories of boats and fishing. ♪

## GLOBAL USE OF CHS WEBSITE

**IN 2010**, as in 2009, the top countries represented by visitors to the CHS website were the US, the UK and Canada. But, driven by a flurry of nationwide activity on Chinese search engine QQ in April, China (the People's Republic) rocketed to number four in 2010, versus tied for 22nd (with nine other countries) in 2009.

As in 2009, Wikipedia sent more visitors to the CHS website than did Google, which seems to suggest a large number of research-oriented visitors. In addition to the home page, the most popular pages were the Tarpaulin page, the Land and Sea page and the Monograph page. The most popular monographs were Gosnold, Tarpaulin Cove Lighthouse, the Church Family, Cuttyhunk Yacht Club, and the Homer brothers.

HAL GRANGER, WEBMASTER



*The fishing lures on exhibit in 2010 intrigued visitors of all ages, including Charlie Anderson (left) and Aidan Buckley (right).*