

# GLOUCESTER MARITIME HERITAGE CENTER

The Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center Newsletter • Gloucester, Massachusetts • Winter 2004/2005

## PEOPLE ARE SAYING...

*The Heritage Center is a gem on the Gloucester waterfront.*

- Kate Fox  
Director of Heritage Tourism  
Essex National Heritage Commission



## Beaver II Undergoes Rebuild at GMHC

There was a feeling of festivity in the air on July 2nd as a tugboat towing the *Beaver II* came into naked eye range of GMHC's main pier. The arrival of the nearly one hundred year old brigantine was something of a milestone on several fronts.



The *Beaver II* under repair at GMHC

For the *Beaver II*, originally built in Denmark in 1908, it marked the beginning of the vessel's first ever major overhaul. For GMHC, it marked the assembly and employment of a crew of professional shipwrights ready to undertake a major job on the Burnham Brothers Marine Railway. For Historic Tours of America, owner of the Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum, the rebuild is a major step towards the 2006 reopening of its new Boston facility, which will also include a museum building complete with tea room.

Debbie Wythe, project manager for Historic Tours, chose GMHC for the overhaul because of the center's interest in promoting history and educating the public about shipbuilding. "It felt like their mission fit our mission," she says, "and we liked the idea that the *Beaver* could actually do some teaching while she's being restored." Not only have thousands of summer visitors been introduced to terms like futtocks and frames, but hundreds of school children participating in GMHC field trips have had the opportunity to see how oak planks are steamed and bent in preparation for planking.

The rebuild is expected to take at least a year. During the first six months, while the boat is on the railway, the crew will be replacing dozens of futtocks. The stem has already been replaced and a new billethead is on the agenda. The bottom will be completely refastened and the whole boat will be recaulked.

In the winter, the boat will be returned to the water where it will remain berthed at the GMHC Main Pier while work continues to replace the bulwarks and about half the deck. The *Beaver* will be outfitted with new masts and a new bowsprit. She'll also get all new rigging.

Historic Tours hired Rockport shipbuilder Leon Poindexter to oversee the restoration, which is estimated to cost \$300,000. According to Poindexter, who served as maritime consultant for the film *Master and Commander*, the *Beaver II* project is perfect for GMHC. "The size of the facility we have here is an excellent fit for a wooden vessel of this size," he says. "We couldn't ask for a better set-up."

## Construction Begins on Multi-Purpose Building

November marks the start of GMHC's next major project: the renovation and eventual expansion of the engine building into a multi-purpose facility. Our plan is to transform this single story industrial structure into a two story Marine Resource Center. Treehouse Design, Inc. of Rockport, MA is providing pro bono design work for the project. Led by GMHC board member and Treehouse president Tim Thurman, the Design Review Committee has developed plans that divide the project into two distinct phases.



Rendering by Tim Thurman, president, Treehouse Design

The first phase involves renovating the existing engine building (where the Stellwagen Exhibit is presently housed) to serve as a well equipped science classroom and a small auditorium seating approximately 50 people. New restrooms will also be installed. Together these facilities will greatly expand our capacity to offer education programs relating to marine science and its role in the history and future of Cape Ann.

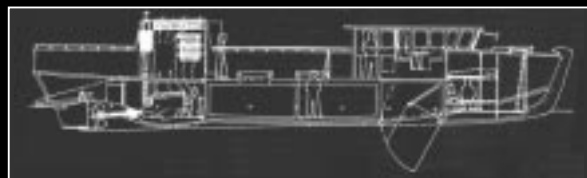
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Mark your calendar Thursday, December 2, 7pm

## GMHC Hosts Presentation on New Vessel Design



GMHC will sponsor *Vessel Design and the Future of Gloucester Fishing*, a presentation and panel discussion, in the Boathouse on Thursday, December 2nd at 7pm.

This event will focus on a detailed discussion of a new fishing vessel designed by Phil Bolger and Friends, which was featured in the September 2004 issue of *National Fisherman*.

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## A Message from the GMHC President

Congratulations to all those who worked so hard to make Heritage Day a great success, especially Jen Fahey, Ann Banks, Deborah Cramer, Sally Thompson, John McGlennon, Steve Charrette, Bill van Stigt, Anne Ogilvie and Harriet Webster.

On that same day there was a memorial service for Joel Schneider, a former board member and friend of the Heritage Center. Joel's background was educational television and he brought a lot to our organization's initial conversations about the shape of our educational programming. It was Joel's intention to rejoin us when he moved back to Gloucester. We'll miss his energy and unique vision.



Joel Schneider  
(center) inspired  
and nourished  
our creativity.  
We will miss him.

It is hard to comment about what is going on at the Heritage Center without bringing up the fact that *Adventure* has moved. In the best of worlds – given unlimited space and a coordinated cooperative vision – it might be possible for two non-profits with a similar mission to exist on one property. But that is not what happened. I am sorry they chose to move but I understand their decision. *Adventure* is about to embark on its final restoration project, the reconstruction of her stern. Once completed she will be ready to meet the expectations Jim Sharp, Joe Garland and others had when she was gifted to Gloucester. It is a major accomplishment stewarded by a committed organization. We look forward to collaborating with *Adventure* in the future to insure that Gloucester's rich maritime story continues to be told.

We are about to embark on the conversion of the engine building into a multi-purpose educational center. We have 75% of the funds needed for phase-one, and I think that once we start the project we will be able to raise the remainder.

We have stretched and augmented every dollar we have raised. I hope that what we have accomplished with the limited funds we have raised has earned us the reputation of being a rewarding recipient for prudent donor dollars.

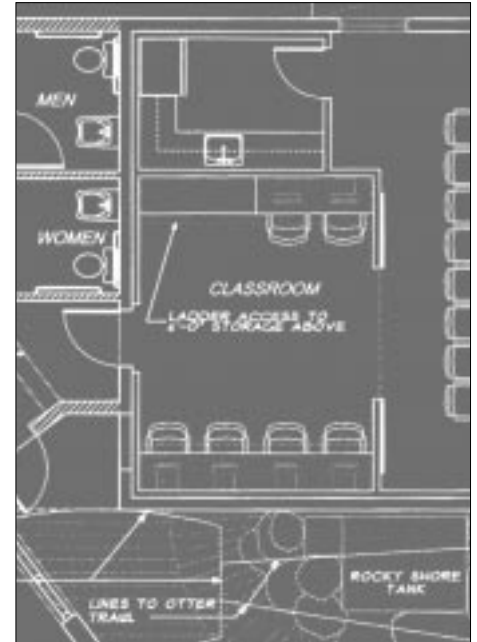
Geoffrey Richon,  
GMHC President

## Multi-Purpose Building on the Horizon

Continued from front page

The second phase of the project involves the construction of an upper story which will contain offices, a small kitchen, and a gallery overlooking the harbor. This second story will connect with the office building/visitor center, allowing us to turn the existing office space into a second gallery. The two galleries will house exhibits focusing on the history of the fishing industry and the different ethnic groups that have provided the mind, muscle and heart that make up Gloucester's rich heritage. They will serve as Gloucester's "attic," where we can display the tools, treasures and documents that together tell the city's story and highlight its remarkable heritage.

We've established a budget of \$500,000 for the complete build-out of the project, encompassing both phases: \$180,000 for phase one, and \$320,000 for phase two. We have already raised over \$140,000 towards phase one. If you would like to contribute to the support of this project, please contact Harriet Webster, executive director, at 978-281-0470.



A section of the first floor renovation plans for the GMHC's multi-use building

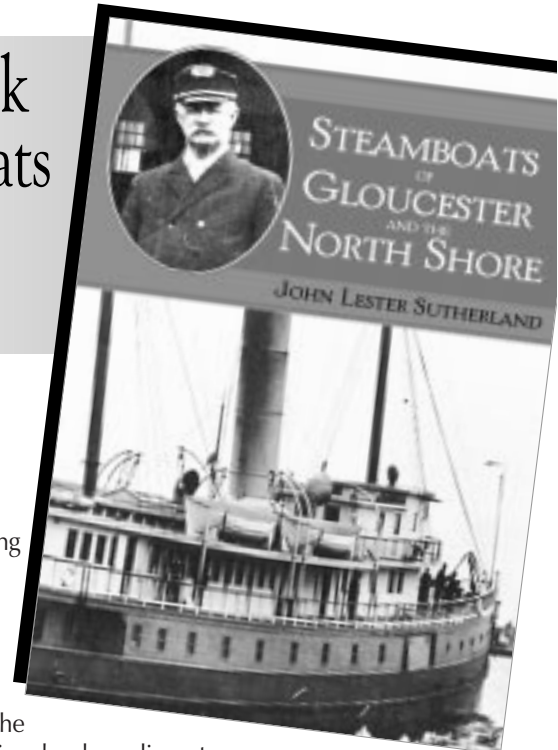
## Sutherland Book Gives Work Boats Well Deserved Attention

**Save the Date:**  
Saturday, December 4,  
11 am to 1 pm

GMHC board member, former Gloucester city councilor, and lifelong wharf rat John "Let" Sutherland ushers in a new era of his life with the publication of his first book, *Steamboats of Gloucester and the North Shore* (The History Press).

The Heritage Center will celebrate the book's publication with a book signing, book reading, story swapping reception for Let on Saturday, December 4th from 11am to 1pm.

The book is jam packed with tales of adventure and misadventure starring the tugboats, freight vessels, and passenger ferries so vital to the rise of America's leading fishing port. It makes a perfect Christmas gift for anyone with a love for Gloucester's history, the scrappy side of life along the industrial waterfront, or the technology of steamboats. Stop by to share a cup of hot cider or coffee, gritty tales and good company.



**A Note from the Executive Director**

## Five Years Old, and Going Strong!

We're not a start-up anymore.  
The proof's in the paperwork.

GMHC has just completed its five-year advance ruling period as a nonprofit corporation.

A lot has happened during those five years. Most importantly, we purchased our Harbor Loop site. And, as the accompanying photographs show, the site has undergone dramatic physical improvements. Highlights include the restoration of the Burnham Brothers Marine Railway, construction of Sea Pocket Lab, and the conversion of the icehouse into a boatbuilding shop.

Then there are the other less obvious yet no less dramatic changes. We've hauled out half a dozen boats. We've developed a ladder of after-school and summer educational opportunities for middle and high school students. We've launched boatbuilding classes and rowing programs for both teens and adults. We've developed a series of participatory field trip opportunities for children ranging from preschoolers to high school seniors. And this past July we hired our own team of shipwrights and embarked on our first major restoration project, the rebuild of *Historic Tours of America's Beaver II*.

We have a lot to be proud of and a lot to offer. Our most immediate challenge? Getting the word out about what we do and broadening our base of support as we evolve from a seasonal to a year-round facility.

How can you help us? Encourage your child's school to schedule a GMHC program. Plan a GMHC birthday party or other special celebration. Enroll in one of our programs. Become a member. Join our Events Committee. Contribute! Volunteer!

All it takes to get started is a simple telephone call: (978) 281-0470. Let's talk about what you'd like to do to help GMHC blossom during the next five years. We sure could use your help.

All of us here at the Heritage Center wish you a wonderful holiday season. We hope to see you often in the year ahead.

*Harriet Webster*

Harriet Webster,  
GMHC Executive Director

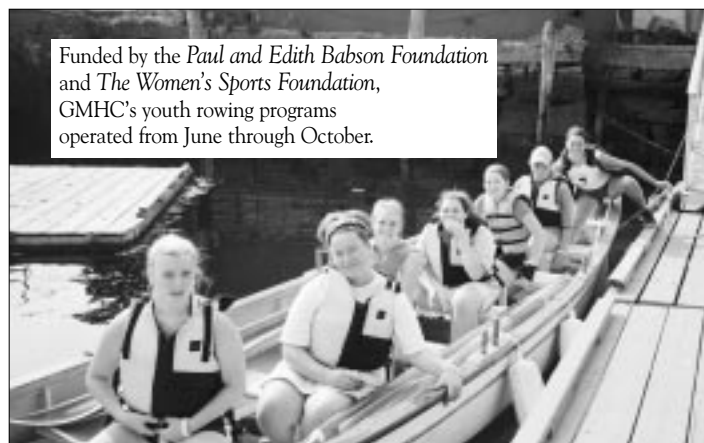


## GMHC Receives Generous Support from Foundations

Over the past months GMHC has received a series of grants that enable us to continue successful programs and to develop new ones. Our thanks go out to all of our funders. We appreciate their generosity and we are touched by the faith they have placed in our ability to do good work as we grow. We know that funders are faced with a sea of competing needs and we do not ever take their support for granted.

The funded projects vary enormously, accurately reflecting the diverse interests and needs addressed at the Heritage Center. For example, the Norcross Wildlife Foundation gifted us \$2,500 to purchase a first rate copy machine and the Bruce J. Anderson Foundation provided \$9,000 for improvements to Sea Pocket Lab.

Two other foundations recognized the potential of GMHC's youth rowing programs. The Paul and Edith Babson Foundation contributed \$3,000 and the Women's Sports Foundation awarded \$5,000 specifically for the implementation of a girls' rowing program.



Funded by the Paul and Edith Babson Foundation and The Women's Sports Foundation, GMHC's youth rowing programs operated from June through October.

New England Biolabs Foundation and the Rogers Family Foundation stepped forward to award grants of \$3,000 and \$2,500 respectively to support the development of the pilot Sea Perch ROV program for middle school students, which was offered for the first time this past summer. In addition, the Forest Foundation provided \$3,000 in support of our internships and after-school programs for middle and high school students.

Sailors' Snug Harbor recently awarded us \$13,000 towards education programs that serve children from families associated with the fishing industry. This award also supports the acquisition of two video microscopes (eventually to be joined by four others in the new science classroom in the multi-purpose building), which will bring our marine science programs to a new level of sophistication.

GMHC also received two grants dedicated towards the development of an exhibit focusing on the *F/V Vincie N.* and the Novello family. Members of the family earned a living fishing the vessel for over fifty years and later donated her to the Heritage Center. The Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, a state agency, made an award of \$5,000 towards this project and the federally funded Essex National Heritage Commission contributed \$4,000. Along with the Bruce J. Anderson Foundation, the New England Biolabs Foundation, the Forest Foundation, and Sailors' Snug Harbor, both of these organizations have made grants to GMHC in the past and we are extremely appreciative of their continuing support.

## GMHC BULLETIN BOARD



### Classes & Courses

Our schedule of classes continues to grow and includes options for both youth and adults. For further information or to register, please call 978-281-0470.

#### Teen Boatbuilding

Geno Mondello will teach a group of six students (ages 14-18) how to build a trawl dory from scratch using traditional wood-working techniques. No prior experience necessary. The class begins on Thursday, November 4th and then meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3pm to 6pm for six weeks. Tuition is \$125 (GMHC members, \$100) Scholarship assistance is available.

#### Plans, Lofting and Half Models

Cabinetmaker Dick Higgins will teach a 4-week long course called Plans, Lofting and Half Models at GMHC on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7pm-9:30pm, beginning on November 23rd. Develop an understanding of boat plans and walk away with a beautiful object of your own making. Enrollment is limited to 8 people. No prior experience necessary. Each student will build their own half model and will also receive a copy of Greg Rosell's classic book, *Building Small Boats*. Tuition is \$275 (\$250 for GMHC members), which covers all materials.

#### After-School ROV Program

This program will begin on January 10 and continue for six weeks meeting from 3pm - 6pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. Students will build, test, and operate their own ROVs (remote-operated vehicles). They will use underwater video cameras, hydrophones, temperature probes, and other sampling devices to conduct experiments in Gloucester Harbor. Participants will keep their ROVs at the close of the course.

This program is geared towards students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. The course will be taught by Anne Ogilvie, GMHC education director. Tuition is \$250 (GMHC members, \$225) for the six week course, including all materials. Full and partial scholarships are available.

#### Fancy Knots and Ropework

Coachwhipping, round signet work, Portuguese flat sennits, monkey's fist. Master these and other knots under the direction of marlinspike artist Doug Murphy. No previous experience necessary. The class meets on four Monday evenings, from 7 p.m to 9 p.m., beginning on November 29th. Tuition is \$60 (\$50 for GMHC members), which includes materials and blueprints for the knots so that you can practice them at home.

#### Pulling Boats

Build a small skiff you can row or sail. No prior experience necessary. This start-to-finish project will be divided into three five-week long sessions. Students can register for one, two or three sessions. Each session will be limited to five participants. No previous experience necessary.

#### Lofting and Molding

Begins February 1, meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7pm-9:30pm. Students will loft the plans (draw them to full scale) and build the frames. This session will be taught by Dick Higgins. Tuition \$275 (GMHC members, \$250).

#### Construction and Finish I

Begins Thursday, March 3rd and continues for five weeks meeting from 7pm-9:30pm on Thursdays and 8am-2pm on Saturdays. Steve Kent, instructor. Tuition is \$375 (GMHC members, \$340).

#### Construction and Finish II

Begins Thursday, April 7th and continues for five weeks meeting 7pm-9:30pm on Thursdays and 8am-2pm on Saturdays. Steve Kent, instructor. Tuition is \$375 (\$340 for GMHC members).

## GMHC CALENDAR

#### November 4

Teen Boatbuilding begins



#### November 17

GMHC Annual Meeting

#### November 23

Plans, Lofting & Half Models class begins



#### December 2

"Vessel Design and the Future of Gloucester Fishing"



Evening presentation and panel discussion with Phil Bolger

#### December 4

Steamboats of Gloucester and the North Shore

An evening with John "Let" Sutherland

#### January 10

ROV Class for middle school students begins



#### January 19

GMHC Board Meeting



#### February 1

Lofting & Molding Class begins

#### February 16

GMHC Board Meeting



#### March 3

Construction & Finish I (Introductory Boatbuilding) begins

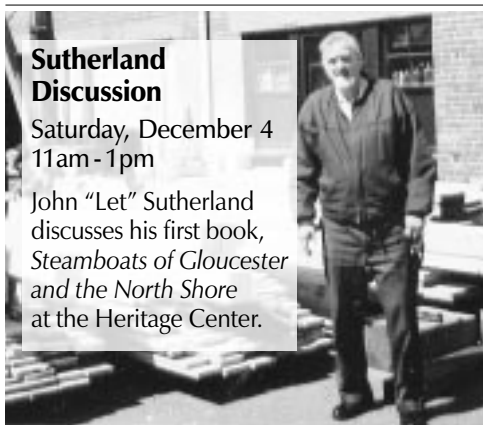
Please call the office at (978) 281-0470 for more information on any of the events listed above.

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### Bolger Presentation

Thursday, December 2, 7:00pm

Phil Bolger will show slides illustrating his design work. Representatives with backgrounds in the fishing industry, marine research and naval architecture will present their perspectives on his newest vessel, which could be built locally for much less than the cost of vessels considered the current industry standard. Participants will discuss the impact of vessel design on the goal of maintaining sustainable fisheries. Open discussion will follow. The evening is open to all and admission is free.



#### Sutherland Discussion

Saturday, December 4  
11am - 1pm

John "Let" Sutherland discusses his first book, *Steamboats of Gloucester and the North Shore* at the Heritage Center.

## Looking for a Shipyard...

for your restoration or building project?



We're made for each other!

We're the Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center, a non-profit organization that champions the preservation of Gloucester's maritime industrial history. Historic and traditional wooden vessels are repaired, restored and constructed at our shipyard on the oldest continuously operating marine railway in the country. Vessels are built and restored in full of view of the public affording visitors the opportunity to develop a respect for traditional boatbuilding skills. We have a full crew of shipwrights, caulkers, and riggers and all necessary equipment available to meet your needs. The historic Burnham Brothers Marine Railway is located in downtown Gloucester, MA, a strategic New England location only 40 minutes from Boston. The railway has been fully restored to accommodate new and historic wooden ship projects.

#### Marine Railway Capacity

Keel length .....110'  
Beam .....29'  
Draft .....8' forward, 14' aft  
Weight.....300 tons

For rates, schedule and further details, call the GMHC at 978-281-0470.

We'd be delighted to discuss your project.

#### PEOPLE ARE SAYING...

"One of my favorite parts of the summer was going on field trips, searching for new animals. There were so many things I didn't even know existed, like rock gunnels. I never thought I could learn that much in just a couple of months."

Alicia Tumbiolo  
Sea Pocket summer intern

# Spirit of Massachusetts Hauls Out at GMHC for Repair

The *Spirit of Massachusetts* hauled out at GMHC this past June for two weeks of work on the railway. Once returned to the water the vessel, which measures 125' overall, remained at the GMHC dock for three more weeks of work. A replica of the Fredonia style fishing schooner designed by Edward Burgess in 1889, the *Spirit* is certified to carry thirty passengers. She belongs to Ocean Classrooms, a nonprofit foundation whose mission is to provide education and experience at sea to high school students.



The *Spirit of Massachusetts* at the GMHC pier

Captain Nicholas Alley was responsible for the vessel during her stay at GMHC. "This was a maintenance period," he explains, "involving our annual haul-out and removing and inspecting the mainmast and associated rigging. We've had a core group of eight crew plus volunteers coming and going eight to ten hours a day, working six days a week.

"A lot of our crew members are former students," he continues. "We pass on the skills involved in the workings of a traditional ship: marlin-spiking, wirework, sail repair, navigation, bo'sun skills. We have no power equipment aboard. When we pull up the sails, it's all done

by hand. When we set the mainsail, everyone on that boat is pulling and they're all doing it together. Teamwork, communication, self-reliance -- these are things we work with every day."

GMHC board president Geoffrey Richon was thrilled with the *Spirit's* visit. "All the activities that mean maritime history -- tarring the rigging, sanding spars, splicing wire -- they were doing them right here. They were maintaining a boat from the past using the same technology that would have been used during that era. It made the Heritage Center a very exciting place. It helped us realize all that we can be."

Nick Alley finds it fitting that the *Spirit* has found a home away from home at GMHC. As he explains, "Hundreds of boats like the *Spirit* sailed out of Gloucester so it seems historically significant that we're able to work on her here now.

"It's neat to be part of all the activity going on around here," he adds. "You guys have been a great source of very good information. You've helped out with tools. Plus, I ask Leon (the master shipwright overseeing the reconstruction of the *Beaver II*) questions every day.

"Where can I get this? How can I do that?" And the location is great for us. We're right in town. Hunter (*Spirit's* cook) can walk up to Shaws and walk back. The laundromat's close by. Having Internet access and the use of the copier is great. Everyone has really made us feel welcome."

"The beauty of having the *Spirit* here," observes GMHC executive director Harriet Webster, "is that they provided revenue by using our railway and dock, but at the same time they provided us with a service by giving our visitors an opportunity to observe their skills. We hope other schooners will follow in their tradition."

**The Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center**  
champions the preservation of Gloucester's maritime industrial history and traditions. It serves as a resource for the study of maritime history, industry and ecology.

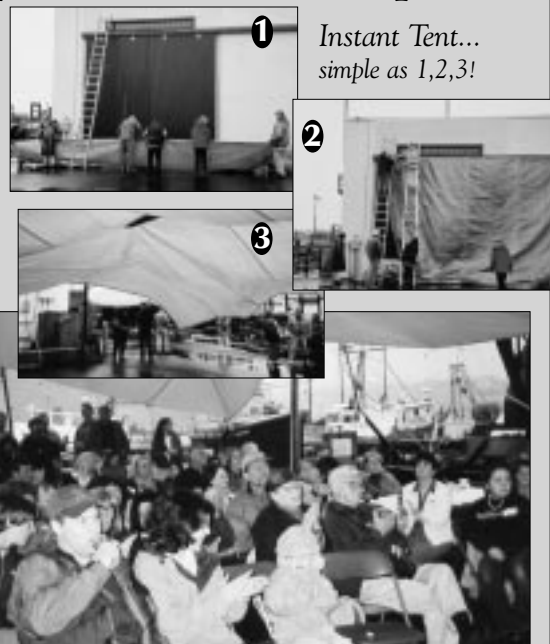
**Board of Directors**  
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Geno Mondello • Cal Morser • Ann Nichols • Butch Roth  
James Schoel • Tom Skinner • Nancy Sullivan  
John "Let" Sutherland • Timothy Thurman  
Harriet Webster, Executive Director

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Editor: Harriet Webster Design: Michael Ronan Graphics

## Rain Doesn't Dampen the GMHC Spirit

The annual open house for members went off right on schedule despite a deluge, thanks to the ingenuity of GMHC volunteers who used a crane and tarps to fashion a temporary tent.



David Coffin entertains....

....and the crowd enjoys.

# Geno Mondello: Our Resident Boatbuilder and a Lot More

Geno Mondello was busy building a dory at the Seafood Festival in September of 2000, the day after a fledgling nonprofit called the Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center closed on the purchase of the Harbor Loop property that today serves as GMHC's site. A guy he'd never met before approached him and asked if he'd like to build boats down at Harbor Loop. That's how Geno Mondello and GMHC president Geoff Richon met.

"The next day, I moved the boat I was building from St. Peter's Park to here," recalls Mondello, pointing to the Dory Shop, located on the upper floor of the Mill Building. "Geoff thought it would be good for the place and I was looking for a bigger workshop."

The first winter was very quiet. He cleaned out the shop space, built a wall, and installed new machinery. Since that time he's spent several hours nearly every day working in the Dory Shop; he's built five boats along with a number of half models commissioned by area restaurants.

As the years have passed, the crowds have grown. During the spring and summer, visitors now crowd the observation deck abutting his workshop, fascinated by the process of seeing a dory built from scratch. The question they ask most frequently? "What's a dory?" And no matter how often they ask it, he answers patiently. "I tell them it's a boat that was used as the backbone of the fishing fleet in the early 20th century and that now it's used for recreational purposes."

Mondello built his first boat when he was about 12 years old. When he was in his 20s he spent



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Geno  
Mondello

time in Nova Scotia continuing to learn his craft. He lobstered as a teenager and still does today. In between, he went mackerel fishing several summers and then fish dragging in the 1970s and '80s.

In contrast to the early years, today the Heritage Center is filled with activity. "This is my home away from home," he observes. "If I don't come here once a day I feel like my day's not complete."

Staffers, visitors, and volunteers constantly turn to Mondello for advice. "I bail them out," he says, smiling quietly. "I do everything. Fix doors and windows, find thole pins, build benches and shelves, help the rowers figure out what to do with the boats, take pictures."

"He does bail us out," confirms GMHC board member Joanne Crawford. "He's our multi-talented guru, always available with the right tool, a kind word, and the perfect historical tidbit."

Mondello also teaches GMHC's popular Teen Boatbuilding Class, which begins its third session in November. "This time we're going to build a 19.5 ft. double dory like the ones used in the Banks fishery for dory trawling," he says. He plans to build a second boat during the winter semester and if all goes well, one of them will be raffled off next summer. Becca Hamilton, daughter of Ocean Classroom's Rick Hamilton (see photo), was first to win a GMHC dory but hopefully she won't be the last.

## Becca Hamilton wins Dory Raffle



Becca Hamilton (with some help from her father Rick) takes home her raffle prize, a dory built by Geno Mondello and his students.

## On the Beaver II



Nate Piper removes the figurehead from the *Beaver II* early on in her reconstruction

## GMHC Diving Locker Acquires Helium Hat

Fans of the Diving Locker should stop by this winter to see curator Paul Harling's newest acquisition, a gleaming Helium Hat manufactured by Morse Diving in 2004. Weighing in at 120 lbs., this innovation was first used to salvage the submarine *Squalus*, which sank 15 miles offshore from Cape Ann (between Halibut Point and the Isles of Shoals) on her maiden voyage, May 23, 1939. This type of diving gear was the first to use a mixed gas



(helium and oxygen), initiating a methodology which continues in use today.

During 2003, the Diving Locker hosted 5,608 visitors representing every state in the union and Washington D.C. as well as 34 foreign countries.

The Dive Locker is open year round from 10am until 5pm (closed Wednesdays and Thursdays).



# Students Build, Launch “Remote Operated Vehicles” at GMHC

Standing, kneeling and lying on the harbor-master’s dock on an August afternoon, the eight students in GMHC’s first Sea Perch ROV Program untangled wires, adjusted probes, and manipulated control boxes as they launched their homemade ROVs (remote operated vehicles) on their maiden voyage. The event came at the end of a two week session in which participants met five hours a day, creating vehicles which they kept at the end of the course.



Eight students completed the ROV workshop this Summer.

During the pilot program, the GMHC conference room was transformed into a workshop/laboratory as the students developed skills in marine construction and technology. There was an audible hum of activity each day as students drilled parts, soldered electrical circuits, tested motors, and wired their vehicles. “I liked the technical work,” comments participant Toby Wiberg. “I learned how to troubleshoot problems, and I’ve got a good idea of how to fix things if they break.”

Designed to serve as either an intensive summer course or a six week long after-school program for middle school students, the Sea Perch ROV Program introduces teenagers to state-of-the-art underwater technology. ROVs are used in applications ranging from oceanographic research to commercial projects associated with pipelines and oil rigs. They are able to dive to great depths, stay underwater for long periods of time, and work in aquatic environments where human divers cannot travel.

The first in-water test of the GMHC ROVs was highly successful, with all vehicles working properly from the start. “I was surprised and impressed that everything we built actually worked,” commented participant Aaron Swicker. After students mastered piloting the ROVs around the pier pilings, they used underwater cameras, temperature probes, sunlight sensors, plankton nets, and hydrophones attached to the vehicle frames to examine marine life in the harbor.

The course culminated with a boat trip to Folly Cove aboard the *Aaron and Alexa*, a lobster boat owned and operated by Scott Swicker, Aaron’s father. The trip gave students the opportunity to observe the contrast between a sandy bottom habitat in a more exposed location and the rocky bottom habitat that characterizes Gloucester’s industrial harbor. “Being able to see down into the deep water with the cameras and learning about the creatures that live there was wicked cool,” concludes Aaron, echoing the reaction of all the students.

The next ROV course will begin in January. For information, call (978) 281-0470.

## Gloucester Maritime Heritage Day, '04!

GMHC welcomed hundreds of visitors of all ages on October 9th for the 2nd Annual Gloucester Maritime Heritage Day. Highlights included a nautical flea market and silent auction, harbor tours, seafaring music, and lots of children’s activities including a “race to market” relay. Our thanks go out to all who contributed to making the day a success!



## Aquaculture Facility in Full Swing

Tucked in beneath GMHC's Visitor Center, the MIT Sea Grant Hatchery and Marine Education Center is an active science laboratory featuring marine fish in various stages of development. Managed by aquaculture specialist and education coordinator Brandy Wilbur, the facility is a program of the MIT Sea Grant, part of a network of 30 individual programs located in each of the coastal and Great Lakes states.

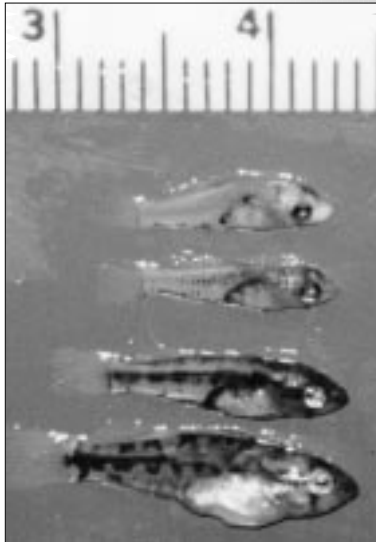
Funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Sea Grant encourages cooperation between government, academia, and industry. Through a combination of research, education, and outreach, MIT Sea Grant works to promote a sustainable environment and economy, and a fuller understanding of these critical resources.

MIT Sea Grant focuses on issues important to New England: fisheries, aquaculture, invasive species, water quality and underwater technology. The program relocated its Hatchery and Marine Education Center to GMHC in order to enhance its work in fisheries and aquaculture. "This was the first summer we were open to the public," Wilbur explains. "Visitors were able to witness real ongoing research while learning more about aquaculture and its role in our society."

The hatchery also actively collaborates with GMHC on marine science internships. "Four students spent the summer in the hatchery acquiring the skills involved in hatching marine finfish eggs, growing microscopic food for the fish, growing out larval fish to juveniles and monitoring water quality," Wilbur explains.

What happens to the fish raised in the hatchery? "We usually send them to other research labs," Wilbur answers, "and to schools and aquariums."

For further information regarding the Hatchery and its education programs, please call Brandy Wilbur at 978-283-6275.



Larval black sea bass grown in the hatchery



Rotifers are grown in the Live Feed Room. They are the first feed given to the larvae.



Haddock eggs and newly hatched yolk sac larvae

## National Marine Sanctuary Teams with GMHC

Following discussions with Dr. Craig MacDonald, superintendent of the Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, the GMHC board of directors voted last spring to house an educational exhibit about the sanctuary, which has also established exhibits in Provincetown and at the New England Aquarium. While GMHC has collaborated with many other organizations, the relationship with the sanctuary marks our first partnership with a federal agency.



Steam pipe from the *Portland*

Housed in the engine building and accessed through the Sea Pocket Lab admissions area, the Stellwagen Exhibit features panels focusing on seafloor mapping, sanctuary habitats, marine fish, maritime heritage, and humpback whales. Visitors can also manipulate a computer touch screen to learn about different facets of whale behavior and physiology.


A 15-minute long film highlighting the wreck of the *Portland*, the paddlewheel passenger ship that sank several miles off Cape Ann in 1898, runs continuously. The tragedy left no survivors and the wreckage was not located until 91 years later when it was found within the boundaries of the sanctuary. The movie provides an introduction to the scientists involved in researching the wreck and the modern imaging technologies they use to explore it.

The Stellwagen Exhibit is slated for expansion in 2005 with the addition of new touch screens focusing on marine life, shipwrecks, and the maritime history of Cape Ann.

### “PEOPLE ARE SAYING...”

Keeping the shark for a couple of weeks was really cool. People, including myself, are fascinated by them, and watching one for hours at a time taught me a lot about them."

- Curtis Sarkin  
Sea Pocket summer intern



**Test Cruise**

A middle school student tries out the ROV that he built as part of a two week workshop held this summer at the GMHC.

See story, Page 5

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