



SAVING LIVES THEN. CHANGING LIVES NOW.

HULL LIFESAVING MUSEUM

The *Messenger Line* is the museum's periodic newsletter. A life-saving crew initiated a rescue involving a breeches buoy by firing a line-carrying projectile from shore to ship using a small, cannon-like gun. This first, light line, that was used to haul a series of ever-stouter lines to the wreck, was known as *the messenger line*.

The Messenger Line

September 2009



1117 NANTASKET AVENUE, HULL, MA 02045 • 781-925-5433 • HULLLIFESAVINGMUSEUM.ORG

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First Thursday Lecture

Discover Cape Cod:

AMC's Guide to the Best Hiking, Biking, and Paddling

Michael O'Connor

Thursday, September 3, 2009 7 pm

\$3 members, \$5 nonmembers

Massachusetts folks know that the Cape is best enjoyed in the off-season, and never better than in September. Join Hull resident Michael O'Connor for the inside scoop on the greatest outdoor adventures Cape Cod has to offer.

With its spectacular coastline and more than 100 miles of bike trails, Cape Cod is an ideal destination for an activity-packed vacation. This new book from the Appalachian Mountain Club describes the 50 best hiking, biking, and paddling trips in this beautiful coastal area, including many excursions within the Cape Cod National Seashore. From a short hike around Falmouth's Long Pond and a scenic bike ride on the Cape Cod Rail Trail to a walk through Provincetown and a paddling tour of Wellfleet's freshwater ponds, this guide will lead you to the most unforgettable spots on the Cape. Nature notes and historical essays give visitors a more detailed picture of the area. For short, one-hour excursions, day-long adventures, or weekend afternoons, this guidebook provides the best outdoor experiences for vacationers and residents alike.

Michael O'Connor was the outdoor and recreation writer at the *Boston Herald* for 20 years. He has worked as a writer and editor for The Trustees of Reservations and is an avid hiker, kayaker and photographer.

Endless Summer Festival

Saturday, September 12, 2009, Noon - 6pm

Nantasket Avenue, between Wharf St. and Park Ave.

Free Admission

The Hull Nantasket Chamber of Commerce is throwing a fantastic party – the 5th Annual Endless Summer Waterfront Festival. An open air music stage, food vendors, local retailers, artists, and craftsmen plus special events and contests all day, will extend summer into September, a golden time of year on this Boston Harbor peninsula. The museum will hold a tent sale and provide fun activities for children. A special feature of this year's festival will be the "Castles for Causes" sand sculpture contest. The museum is assembling a crack-team of sandcastle builders to compete for the \$1,000 prize. If you are interested in being part of Team HLM give us a call or drop us an email.

SOUTH SHORE YOUTH ROWING

Fall 2009 – Racing Season

Mondays and Wednesdays

September 21 – November 21

\$120 members, \$160 non-members. A limited number of partial scholarships are available.

The season that includes the Head of the Weir and The Icebreaker: Northeast Regional Youth Open Water Rowing Championships is not to be missed! Register early; space is limited.



Back Roads of the South Shore Outing to Nantucket

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Winterthur's Special Traveling Exhibit

Harbor & Home: Furniture of

Southeastern Massachusetts, 1710–1850

The Backroads of the South Shore, a consortium of local history organizations, allows member institutions to join together on collaborative ventures in order to offer all of our members rich and diverse opportunities. This September, the Hull Lifesaving Museum is excited to offer members, friends, and volunteers the chance to participate in the Backroads trip to Nantucket to see Winterthur's Special Traveling Exhibit, *Harbor & Home: Furniture of Southeastern Massachusetts, 1710–1850*.

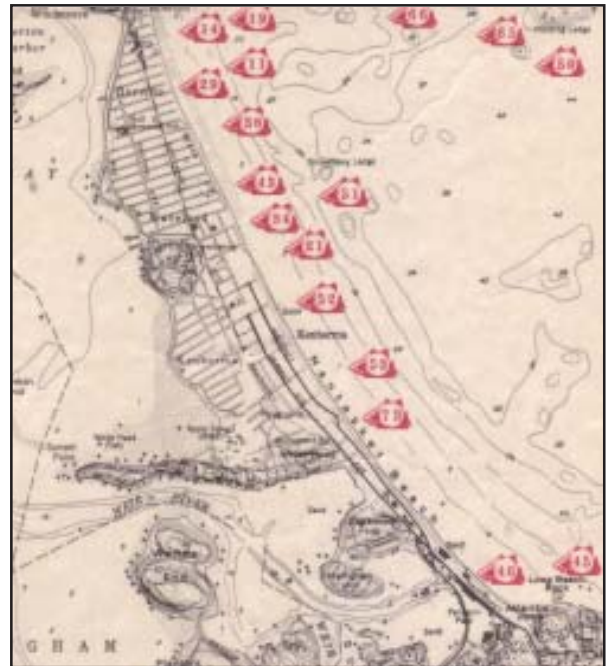
The South Shore has long been a neglected area for serious study of cultural and material life in the 18th and 19th centuries. Now, years of investigation by a team of researchers from Winterthur Museum has resulted in this stunning new exhibition on view at the Nantucket Whaling Museum from July to early November. The exhibition features furniture, maps, prints, paintings and historic photographs in an unprecedented exploration of the region's distinctive material world, shaped by wealth created from the resources of the sea and local waterways. The exhibit highlights the work of previously unknown local craftsmen and includes rare and unusual pieces never before displayed.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore the regional culture of southeastern Massachusetts in a dazzling display of historic art and artifacts. Register early to reserve your place with the Backroads Group Tour on Tuesday, September 22nd. Tickets are \$90 per person, which includes round-trip bus and ferry transportation from Plymouth to Nantucket and museum admission. Call 508-747-0100 for more information, or send your check, payable to: Backroads of the South Shore, Plymouth County CVB, 170 Water Street, Plymouth MA 02360.

Boston Harbor Shipwreck Website

Our Boston Harbor Shipwreck Website is moving forward on schedule. Audissey Guides, our designer, has created the initial concept, and is beginning to build the site. Last month, Corinne Leung, Museum Director and Vicki Stevens, Curator and Educator, visited the National Archives Northeast Region to begin imaging original Point Allerton U.S. Lifesaving Service log reports, which will be accessible through the site. Imaging, editing and content development will continue through the early fall. We are delighted to announce that we will be previewing the new website at the Boston Harbor Educators Conference on Thompson's Island on Saturday, October 3, 2009. For more information about the conference, please visit www.massmarineeducators.org.

Detail, Bob Sullivan's Shipwreck Chart



2009 Staton Award Recipient

Michael DiBartolomeo

by Victoria Stevens, Curator & Educator

On August 1, we were thrilled to present Mike DiBartolomeo with the 2009 Staton Award for outstanding volunteerism. During his time at the Point Allerton Coast Guard Station, Mike has always been ready to help with museum projects, be it knot tying lessons or painting the exhibit spaces. Most memorably, Mike has guided well over 1,000 children through breeches buoy field trip drills – a job not for the faint of heart or short of temper. This month Mike will be moving on to USCG Group Boston. While we will miss you here in Hull, Mike, it is comforting to know that you will still be nearby, and that you have passed along your skill and enthusiasm to others at the Station.



The Little IDEA That Could

Maritime Apprentice Program's "Ubuntu" Project Chosen for State House Exhibit

By Ed Norton, MAP Apprentice Supervisor

MAP intern Kate Moore, loaned to HLM through the Juvenile Justice Advocacy Program at Wheelock College, was assigned the task of coordinating an art-related project around the African concept of Ubuntu – community and connection – for her second semester project. After lots of discussion between apprentices and staff, we decided to combine the two art experiences we were pursuing into one project: our collaboration with the School of the Museum of Fine Arts welding shop, where the apprentices were studying introductory welding under the inspired tutelage of instructor Dennis Svornos, and the in-house photography expertise offered through second MAP intern, Derek Palmer, a photography student at the Art Institute of Boston.

While apprentices continued working on individual welding and photography projects, one student, Omay, suggested making a tree at the welding shop, and hanging pictures from it, "kinda like a Christmas tree." At that moment, the MAP art project was born. Support came from many places. Beth Howard volunteered a tree trunk from her front yard as the core upon which the idea (and actual form) could shape itself. Bands of steel were bent, molded, and welded into branches to support hanging pictures. A steel base with welded roots was fashioned; pictures taken and selected, frames cut and tacked together, and metal leaves tamped out of a mold, compliments of boat shop instructor Bill Foley.

MAP was honored when one of Omay's inspired black and white portraits of fellow apprentice, Latiek, was chosen for the poster of the Ubuntu art show at Wheelock, showcasing exhibits from ten different projects from programs that serve Boston youth. Opening night was a great success, with great buzz around our tree as the apprentices expounded on the development of the project, as well as MAP. It was a great coming together, an appropriate tribute to the idea of Ubuntu which inspired us. When the Wheelock show closed, the MAP tree was chosen to be part of the "Youth Transforming Violence" exhibit at the State House. We are now just awaiting a call from the White House... Stay tuned.



MAP welding class.

TWO TALES OF THE 2009 BLACKBURN CHALLENGE... BY WOMEN WHO WERE REALLY THERE.

The true story of the 2009 Blackburn Challenge

By Beth Howard, Maritime Program Educator

Research psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi describes a *flow state* as "being so involved in an activity that nothing else seems to matter: The ego falls away. Time flies. Every action, movement, and thought follows inevitably from the previous one...your whole being is involved, and you're using your skills to the utmost." For me, this is euphoria. It is also exactly what it felt like to be part of the Hull Lifesaving Museum's gig crew, as we rounded Eastern Point lighthouse in Gloucester, with only two miles left to go in the Blackburn Challenge. We were strong. We were determined. We were invincible! But the 20-mile race hadn't always felt this way....

In order to understand the true story of our attempt at the Blackburn Challenge, you first have to know the back story: the last HLM crew to take The Challenge also took The Pledge. They had endured a legendarily miserable row in hazy, humid, 95° weather, during which they were racing hard, engaged in a neck-and-neck grudge match against local rivals. Hydration and moderation were lesser priorities than gaining precious inches on their adversaries, and it took weeks for their bodies to truly begin repairing from the extensive damage done that day. After the race, in a moment of pain-driven clarity, these rowers took the infamous Pledge never to do the Blackburn again. Almost 20 years later, mentioning the race among this group elicits vivid recollections, and all the accompanying emotions. And to a person, the takers of The Pledge stand by their decision. Talk about muscle memory!

So, it was with this in mind that my crewmates and I embarked upon an ambitious training plan, devised and implemented by HLM rower and Blackburn champion Mike Cushing. We were determined to train our bodies and minds for the rigors of the day, and to avoid situations in which we might be tempted to take The Pledge. Over several months, Karyn Foley, Theresa Albano, Lory Newmyer, Melissa Phouthavong, Connie Crosby, Sheila Connor, and I transformed from seven individuals with various individual strengths and weaknesses, into one finely honed unit: a crew, with the power of seven minds and bodies, and the precision and unity of one.

On July 18, 2009, that crew sat with great anticipation on the starting line in the Annisquam River. We listened for the starting commands with oars poised millimeters off the water, while our muscles tensed and adrenaline rushed.

"Five seconds. Four. Three. Two. One. Row!" The six gig rowers representing the Hull Lifesaving Museum planted their oar blades firmly into the water, drove off the footstretches in perfect unison, laid back well past vertical, and extracted the oars using the smooth, well-practiced act of feathering. We had just completed stroke one of the Blackburn Challenge, and it didn't feel so bad. (Yet.)

Thanks to navigation equipment loaned by Don Ritz, we knew we were averaging almost six knots at 28 strokes per minute, confidently riding the outgoing tide. Those first few miles flew by, and before we knew it, we were racing past the mouth of the river.

When we rounded Lane's Cove, and began feeling incipient tugs of fatigue, the encouraging voices of Ed McCabe, Martha Schiffhauer, Mike Cushing, Scott Thorburn, and Nowell Bloomenthal boomed out from land, giving us a boost of energy. "Go, Kittery!!!"

And go we did, fast and strong, all the way to Straitsmouth Island, which is the halfway point of the race. A ripple of delight bubbled through the boat, as Sheila relayed a momentous fact: we had made it there in under two hours! We were hyper-focused and 100% dedicated to this race and each other; we were invincible!

And then I realized that I was suddenly, seriously nauseous.

And then I began seeing the little black dots that precede passing out.

And then the little black dots invited their friends to come swarm my vision, and they multiplied in number, and they converged upon me from the periphery inwards, until they became one large, black void, excluding all sight.

At that point, I began to view my situation objectively, as if from a vantage point somewhere above the boat. *Stay strong*, I reminded myself; *don't let down your crewmates*. I concentrated all my focus on staying in time and applying power. *Good thing we had all those eyes-closed rowing drills*, I thought, as I began pushing the little black dots out from my central vision and back into the periphery, one by one. *Never give up*, I thought. *I can do this; it's just an interesting challenge*.

Stripped of one of my senses, I was keenly aware of another: I felt completely enveloped in the harmonious energy flowing between me and my crewmates. It held me up when I needed it, and I was proud to be part of a crew that supported each other on both a conscious and subconscious level. It turns out that many of the other rowers experienced something like this during the race (the illness, the energy, or both), and each one found the strength within herself and within the group to continue rowing with steady discipline. This is the benefit of training our bodies *and* our minds: when the body wants to give up, the mind takes over and carries us through, and I'm pretty sure the mind is unconquerable, when properly trained.

As we got close to Eastern Point, which marks the entry to Gloucester Harbor, we converged with John and Alyse Struzziery, HLM rowers, racing a double, just in time to pass all our friends cheering us on from shore. Entering the harbor, we lengthened our stroke to maximum capacity, living only in the present, forgetting the pain of all the miles that came before. Time and ego were gone, and I was suspended in our collective synergy. We had achieved that most coveted of rowing states: *swing*, or as Csikszentmihalyi would call it, a *flow state*.

When we crossed the finish line, a multitude of thoughts flitted through my mind. I was grateful, proud, exhausted, blissful, and energized, but mostly in awe of this crew, who could create the power and energy to carry each other through such a challenge with unfaltering goodwill. I thought of how amazing it was that the collective energy was so strong that it could bring me from near-blackout back into flow state.

And this, after all, is the true story of this race: crew. And by crew, I absolutely do mean Karyn, Theresa, Lory, Melissa, Connie, and Sheila, but I also mean the entire crew of Hull Lifesaving Museum rowers. Non-racing crewmates filled in seats when racers couldn't make practices, offered words of encouragement, allowed us to monopolize a favored boat, lent time and talent coaching us, drove us around the race course ahead of time, loaned us navigation equipment, brought the boat to Gloucester and back, and cheered us on from multiple points all around Cape Ann.

I am so fortunate to be a part of such a wonderful group of people, who all go out of their way to make sure each other's needs and desires are met. I have nothing but love and gratitude for all of you!

Blackburn Challenge ~ From the Bow

By Karyn Foley, Oar #One

We had erged over 300,000 meters, rowed over 160 miles through heat, fog, wind, cold, rain, mist and of course, waves. After months of training (we were ready, right?), we rode to Gloucester to prepare for the next days race, The Blackburn Challenge. I was more than a little intimidated by this 22 mile marathon race up the Annisquam River and through the Atlantic waters surrounding Cape Ann after reading how choppy those waters were along with many fishing boats being out and about causing heavy wakes and the hundreds of other watercraft participating in the race. I also thought "how much worse can it be than a windy winter row through Hull Gut, out and around Peddocks?"

We awoke to a cool morning with fog. I was glad for the coolness but thought about Howard Blackburn, for whom the race is named, and how in mid-winter he got separated from a fishing schooner in a sudden squall and heavy fog. He wound up rowing for five days to finally arrive on the south coast of Newfoundland. We rowed our beloved Kittery to the starting line, surprising a few of our neighboring crews from the South Shore. By chance, we were an all women's crew, the one and only in our class, Pilot Gig. We were off! The air surrounding the river was very still and humid. I was hoping the entire race would not be like this or I would be in trouble. As soon as we exited to the Atlantic, the air was exhilarating, nice and cool. The fog was thick, we could just see the coast. All was well until about mile 15 when I thought they would have to peel me from the boat when we finished. Then, from shore, familiar voices cheering "Go Kittery." I, as well as the rest of the crew, were determined to finish.

And, finish we did. Four hours, nine minutes, and over 6,000 strokes. We beat last year's women's crew in a Pilot Gig by 10 minutes! Much gratitude and thanks to the crew, Connie Crosby, Beth Howard, Melissa Phouthavong, Lory Newmyer, Theresa Albano, our coxswain, Sheila Connor, and our coach Mike Cushing! A generous thank you to Ed McCabe, Martha Schiffhauer, Nowell Bloomenthal, Scott Thornburn and all the others who called with well wishes pre-race, helped tow the boat, cheer us on and greet us at the finish line. Your shouts from shore helped me to carry on. And, to HLM for giving me the opportunity. This was an experience I will not soon forget. Oar number one, back in!

Thank You!

Dick Boonisar - Donation of Whaler hull and outboard motor

Daley and Wanzer - Transporting donations from Florida

Bob Sullivan - Painting, *Wreck of the St. John*, by Alan Sundal

Bill and Sandra Weeks - collection of maritime books and brand new oversized cooler

Hull Maritime Festival Thank Yous

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Shallop Elizabeth Tilley
at the Hull Maritime Festival

Hull Maritime Festival

The four-day Hull Maritime Festival, was a wonderful and fitting end to our year-long 30th anniversary celebration. Thanks to the leadership of event Chair, Maureen Gillis, the marvelous creativity and effort of our seemingly-tireless 30-plus person planning team, the support of dozens of sponsors and donors, and lots of cooperation from Mother Nature, we enjoyed bustling days and boogying nights of races, lectures, movies, and music! Thank you to the Town of Hull for your support of this event, and your friendship to the Museum over these many years. And, thank you to the thousands of friends, members, and believers who have helped nurture our organization. Here's to the next 30 - and beyond!



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www.hulllifesavingmuseum.org
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Volunteers Needed

Winterizing the Station: While enjoying the dog-days of August, we're keeping a weather eye on the fast-approaching fall and winter season. Caulking and sealing windows and doors is an annual museum ritual. You supply the elbow grease, we provide the materials and good cheer!

Transcribing Wreck Reports: As we continue building our new shipwreck website, transcriptions of these elegant handwritten reports will ensure easy reading. If you enjoy a bit of deciphering and data entry this job is made for you.

Wish List:

- Area rugs
- Art easels
- Concept II Ergometers
- Garden Tools
- Garden Cart
- Hand tools
- Laptop computers
- Outboard motors (any condition - MAP Projects)
- Porch rockers
- Stackable chairs (lightweight preferred!)
- Video camera
- DVD Player

Upcoming Events:

September 10: Lecture: "Discover Cape Cod: AMC's Guide to the Best Hiking, Biking, and Paddling"

September 12: Endless Summer Waterfront Festival

September 21: South Shore Youth Rowing fall season begins

September 22: Back Roads Outing to Nantucket

October 1: Lecture: TBA

October 23 – 25: Sea & Sky Art Show

October 31: Head of the Weir

November 5: Lecture: TBA

November 6: HLM Benefit Wine Tasting, Portside Wines, Hull

November 21: Icebreaker, NE Youth Rowing Championship



Outdoor Family Movie Night
Hull Maritime Festival, July 2009