

BEALS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. XIX, No. 2 (Spring 2019)

BEALS ELEMENTARY STUDENTS TO PRESENT LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT

On Monday, March 18th at 6:30PM, Beals Historical Society will proudly host BES students as they present their Lighthouse projects at the Beals gym. BES fifth through eighth grade students are currently preparing for a visit in April from author Sophie Blackall. Blackall's book, "Hello Lighthouse", recently won the Caldecott Medal. Although her book is geared toward younger students in grades PK-4, the upper-grade students are also using the book as their anchor book, while reading Connie Small's novel, "The Lighthouse Keeper's Wife" and "Lighthouse In My Life", by Philmore Wass. As part of their inquiry, each student each student will

choose a lighthouse to research, create visual display boards, write a research paper, and for their art class, they will paint their selected lighthouse. Also, during the presentation, a 50-minute video on lighthouses called, "Light Spirit" will be shown. The video



PERSONALIZED BRICK FUNDRAISER

For 2019, BHS will be offering the Patio and Veterans personalized 4" x 8" brick at a reduced rate of \$75 each. For the "Patio", this size brick offers three lines each with 21 letters and spaces. If you prefer an 8"x8" brick the reduced rate is \$125. This brick offers four lines. Either brick can be personalized with two families or a creative thought of your choice. We also have the Veterans Memorial Park Area whereby you may purchase a brick to honor or memorialize a veteran at this same reduced rate. The veteran brick consists of rank, name, branch of service, and years served. Orders need to be received by April 12th in order to have them in time to set for BHS Memorial Day program. For more information and/or formatting suggestions, please contact Carol at 497-2675 or email cfdavis44@yahoo.com. Thank you!

depicts all of Maine's lighthouses and brief interviews from many people.

Beals Historical Society is honored to host the event and would like to invite family, friends, and the general public to attend. Prior to the presentation at 6PM, BHS will hold its annual business meeting. Light refreshments will be served.

2019 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Since BHS depends on its membership for survival, we would like to remind you that if you have not received a membership card for 2019, then you probably have not renewed for this year. We would love to hear from you! Thank you so much for your continued support!

Save
THE
Date

MARCH 18

Beals Elementary students
"Lighthouse" project presentation,
6:30PM at Beals Gym

MAY 4

Spring Talent/Variety Show at Beals
gym 6:30PM

MAY 27

Memorial Day Program at Beals
Heritage Center, 10AM

JUNE 14

Anthony Sutton "Weir" Program at
Beals Heritage Center 6:30PM

JULY 6

4th of July event selling lobster &
crabmeat rolls at end of bridge across
from USCG

AUGUST 16

To Be Announced

SEPTEMBER 13

To Be Announced

OCTOBER 19

Gospel Concert is dependent on
attendance for Spring show

*Please mark your calendars as we
greatly appreciate your support!*

NEW BEGINNINGS FOR THE 107-YEAR-OLD “SYLVINA W. BEAL”

In past issues of BHS Newsletter, Luther Beal, great grandson of Charles H. Beal I, has shared memories of the vessel, Sylvina W. Beal. Recently he learned of a new journey for the SWB, and thought it might be of interest to BHS and its' readers.

The following is an excerpt from an article taken, from the “Gloucester Times”, and written by Sean Horgan, Staff Writer:

Harold Burnham, the Essex-based boat builder and restorer, had a choice. Burnham could have built a new boat based on the classic lines of fishing schooners from the golden age of sail, as he did in 1997, when he designed and built the 90-foot Thomas E. Lannon, or in 2011, when he launched the 58-foot pinky schooner, Ardelle. But when it came time to embark on a new project, there seemed to be a force from the past pulling at Burnham, one that he just couldn't seem to shake. “When you build a new boat, it only goes back as far as you,” Burnham said Monday morning while standing on the dock behind Maritime Gloucester on Harbor Loop. “When you fix an old one, it comes with a whole past of people and crews. You have an opportunity to become a steward of a real piece of history and you become part of something that's bigger than just you.” Burnham wanted that ethereal connection, which is why he and his project partner Mary Kay Taylor and a crew of friends traveled to Maine last week to take possession of the 107-year-old Sylvina W. Beal, a former racing fishing schooner, and sail the 78-foot wood boat to Gloucester. They sailed the sleek, double-mast knockabout into Gloucester Harbor on Saturday afternoon, expanding the city's fleet of sailing schooners and laying claim as the oldest former fishing boat in the harbor. The schooner, launched in 1911 at the Frank C. Adams boatyard in East Boothbay, Maine, appears to be the oldest former fishing vessel in the harbor, eclipsing the 93-year-old

gillnetter, Phyllis A, which is being restored at Gloucester Marine Railways on Rock Neck. The Sylvina W. Beal was built for Charles H. Beal of Beal's Island in Maine. It was named for Beal's wife, Sylvina W. (Alley) Beal. The schooner has been a true workhorse through its several lives on the water, Burnham said. “It was an established boat on the Maine coast and a very well-known style of vessel,” Burnham said. “It had a very long career.” The boat fished the

waters off the Maine coast as a herring and mackerel seiner, with a crew of up to 10, until approximately the beginning of World War I. From then until the 1980s, according to Burnham, it worked as a seafood cargo carrier, primarily sardines. Sometime in the 1980s, the Sylvina W. Beal was converted to a windjammer passenger schooner and hosted charter cruises and whale watches along the Down East coast.

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Sean Horgan/Staff photo the Sylvina W. Beal knockabout schooner

Burnham and Taylor were asked how much work the boat needs. “Basically everything,” Burnham said. “It needs a complete rehabilitation,” Taylor said. The plan, they said, is to remove about 10,000 pounds of ballast from the Sylvina W. Beal and this fall haul the schooner at Maritime Gloucester’s railways, where it will spend the winter. “Geoffrey Richon and Michael DeKoster of Maritime Gloucester have been incredible,” Taylor said. “They’ve been an enormous help in this.” In the spring, the boat will head to Burnham Boat Building’s boat yard in Essex for restoration. “We figure it’s going to be a couple years before we even start the restoration, but we’ll be doing a lot of prep work in the meantime,” Burnham said. “We’re also looking to get a National Historic Landmark designation, which is incredibly important.” Burnham expects the project to unfold much like the volunteer-laden effort that produced the Ardelle. “We think it’s going to be very much a community effort,” he said.

We hope you enjoyed the article and if you have access to internet and would like to read Luther’s articles, please go to BHS website at www.moosabec.org, click on news and search for the “Spring 2009” and “Summer 2009” issues.



Sean Horgan/Staff photo Sylvina W. Beal knockabout schooner, tied up at Maritime Gloucester on Monday, will be removed by Essex shipwright Harold Burnham.



Sean Horgan/Staff photo Essex shipwright Harold Burnham, left, and project partner Mary Kay Taylor at the stern of the Sylvina W. Beal

BHS BOARD MEMBERS

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