



Newsletter

Maine's First Ship

April 2012
Quarterly

Members Needed!!!

Virginia's fo'castle

Hello MFS members and friends, I'm your new membership resource! We're looking for new ways to recognize and reward our members and volunteers. What would make your membership more valuable to you? Would you recommend membership to your friends and family? Are you cash poor, but have a few hours a week to volunteer? WE TRAIN!



This season in the Bath Freight Shed begins with our Yard Sale May 5 (SAVE YOUR STUFF!!), and will run through Community Involvement Days in October. Volunteers are always needed, and this year we will offer docent and shop safety training for interested volunteers. Even just a few hours a week make a difference.

We've found that having someone, with just a few historic and construction facts greet each visitor increases interest (more donations and contact info via our guest book or email newsletter signup list). If a docent is not present, visitors still are greeted, but it tends to pull from construction. During class days, students act as docents, and the adult volunteers provide backup and catch the difficult questions. Volunteers needed weekday mornings 8-12 and AM/PM Saturdays and Sundays.

Construction carpenters always welcome, this work involves heavy lifting and needs many hands. Typically students work during the weekday mornings, adults on weekend (Saturday OR Sunday). Volunteers needed weekday mornings and partial days Saturdays OR Sundays.

We'll be working with all the collected contact info from our guestbook and email newsletter list to conduct a membership campaign over the next several months. We hope to increase membership and summer visitor volume with targeted mailings and MFS events that advertize our unique synergy of shipbuilding history, education and community involvement.

Sign up or comment to **Gayla Teague** breezekist@hotmail.com or by reply to this newsletter THANK YOU.

Annual Awards Reception



George and Debroah Brett

A reception at the Portland Yacht Club on Thursday, March 15, 2012 attracted 75 Portland-area residents and MFS supporters.

George and Deborah Brett, residents of Cape Elizabeth, were presented with a striking half-model of Virginia during a brief award ceremony to honor dedicated supporters of Maine's First Ship.

Maine Tree Farmer of 2011, were given a letter of appreciation to recognize their generous supply of white oak and other material for reconstruction of the 1608 ship, which began the first of a four-year construction schedule on the Bath waterfront last summer.

Merry Chapin, MFS President, and Rob Stevens, the lead shipwright for the project, gave a brief update of the endeavor, which has employed dozens of high school students and many volunteers from the mid-coast region during the last two summers.

The reception was sponsored by Portland Beverage Company, Cap'n Eli's Soda and the Maine Boatbuilders Show, which began its 2012 program the following night. The president of Portland Yacht Services, Phineas Sprague, a neighbor of the Bretts and organizer of the boatbuilders show, took part in the reception, as did many exhibitors.

In addition to the awards, the purpose of the reception was to raise awareness of the Virginia project in the Portland area.



Paula Hersom and Allen Higgins

Maine Boatbuilders Show



The *Jane Stevens* once again traveled to the Maine Boatbuilders Show in Portland for the annual March event. As usual many folks stopped by to admire her lines, sails and the wonderful "smell" of a wooden boat. The especially nice weather got people wondering about activity this summer as we continue working on *Virginia*. Please stop by and visit us at Bath's historic 19th century Freight Shed on the water front. Enjoy the view or lend a hand, everyone's welcome.

2012 Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee Report

For the past two months we've been working on updating our strategic plan to prepare for another busy year of construction and education programs. We revised our mission and vision statements to reflect our renewed emphasis on construction, education and community involvement. We've updated the executive summary for all the accomplishments in 2011, and planned our priorities and strategy for 2012. Mission, vision and strategy statements have been approved by the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee will issue the 2012 Strategic Plan when the budget for 2012 is finalized.

Maine's First Ship 2012 Vision Statement

Maine's First Ship will build a 51-foot reconstruction of the pinnacle *Virginia*; the first English ship built in North America to cross the Atlantic back to Europe. We will engage students of all ages in the "hands on history" reconstruction and operation of *Virginia* on the rivers and coast of Maine.

Maine's First Ship 2012 Mission Statement

The first *Virginia* was built in 1607-1608 by Popham Colonists at the mouth of the Kennebec River in what was then known as Sagadahock. This reconstruction will be conducted in the City of Bath, the shipbuilding heart of Maine's Sagadahoc County, on the banks of the Kennebec River. Choice of this site reflects our benchmark collaborations with the City, businesses, Regional School Unit #1 and numerous local non-profit organizations to promote and preserve the local history and economy. This waterfront location has been chosen to enhance the historic experience of the public and local students, K through college. The highly visible reconstruction and operation of *Virginia* on the rivers and coast of Maine will inspire and inform both tourists and Maine students as they learn about the early shipbuilding history of Maine and our nation.

Extract from Executive Summary:

"Maine's First Ship (MFS) is a historically significant reconstruction project that we have leveraged into practical shipbuilding and ship operation programs for the education of students of all ages. As we build *Virginia*, our floating classroom, we are engaging students in annual summer shipbuilding courses that teach traditional skills. Programs include lofting and related math, carpentry, as well as ship preservation, operation and maintenance that will help prepare participants to succeed in real life employment. We teach the science of shipbuilding in a condensed historic context. "

Members:

Merry Chapin

Rich Cromwell

Joe Patterson

Gayla Teague

MFS MAY 5th YARD SALE

Bath will once again host a City wide yard sale during their day long Mayfair Event on May 5th. Maine's First Ship will be offering a large selection of household items which will also include furniture, books, tools, antiques and crafts. Visit us at the historic Bath Freight Shed on Commercial & Lambard Sts. 9am - 5pm. Shipwright Rob Stevens and his volunteer crew will be there working on *Virginia*.

If you have items you would like to donate to our sale, they can be dropped off at the Freight Shed on Friday May 4th between 3 & 5pm. Money raised from this event will help fund this summers ship building programs. MFS is a registered 501 (c) 3 organization.

Kickstart the Bath Freight Shed!

Congratulations to the Bath Freight Shed Alliance on surpassing their Kickstart goal of \$18,000.

On the final day of their campaign an open house was held at the Freight Shed. Visitors got to sample L.O.C.A.L. garden fare, meet the ART VAN and culinary students from BRCTC and view the progress on Maine's First Ship.

Many local business owners contributed to this campaign making it a community success!

bathfreightshed.blogspot.com/

Officers

Merry Chapin,
President

Steven Theodore,
Vice President

Orman Hines,
Treasurer

Allison L. Hepler,
Secretary

Directors

Tim Clark

Richard Cromwell

We are currently accepting matching pledges for the \$5,000.00 "Jane Stevens" Memorial Challenge. Please send your contributions to MFS, PO Box 231, Bath ME 04530.

The coming months promise to be a very busy and productive period for us as we plan for next summer. Don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions, need any information, or wish to make a further donation to the campaign.

*Regards,
Merry Chapin, President*

Maine's First Ship

Visit our website at www.mfship.org

We'd love to hear from you. Please e-mail your feed back to mfs1@myfairpoint.net

Sharon Drake
Meggan Henerlau
Fred Hill

Bob Kalish

Jeff Lozier

Joe Patterson

Ed Rice

Ed Rogers

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