



Maine's First Ship

Newsletter

Fall 2015



Special points of interest:

- MFS Volunteer Recognition Luncheon
- Women's Shipbuilding Day Returns
- Shelter Institute's Toolapalooza
- Bill Green's Maine
- White oak delivery
- Celebrate New Years Eve with MFS

MFS Awarded Infrastructure Grant from Maine Humanities Council

Maine's First Ship has been awarded an Infrastructure Grant from the Maine Humanities Council, a private non-profit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress Center for the Book. The grant will allow MFS to update its Visitor Center located in the Bath Freight Shed.

"We're very pleased to get this honor," said Lori Benson, MFS Board member and Project Director for the upgrade. "This allows us to have an exhibit that is 'coherent, coordinated, and more up to date' to support the construction of *Virginia*."

MFS, which entitled its proposal, "Telling *Virginia*'s Story: The History and Archeology of the First English-Built Ship in North America," will use the

\$7453 grant to create an exhibit that will provide the feel



of inside *Virginia*. Updated panels of historical and archeological text will be supplemented by a display of actual shipbuilding tools.

Maine Humanities Council felt this was "a strong, well thought out" proposal and liked the "connection to Maine's shipbuilding heritage and the community involvement."

According to Benson, a

Bath resident, and exhibit designer Roger Barry of Edgecomb, the Visitor Center offers the context for the ship, and works as an "introduction" to the ship-building project.

Construction of the new exhibit will take place this winter and be ready next May inside the Freight Shed, after the Bath Farmers Market moves to its summer location. Design and construction will be largely volunteer. Students from the Bath Regional Vocational Center will provide some electrical expertise.

In addition to providing a coherent story that places *Virginia* in the proper historical context, MFS is also looking for volunteers. "We hope this new exhibit will entice more interest in being a docent for this exciting project," said Benson.



White Oak — Plank stock for "Virginia" — delivered

White oak — for *Virginia*'s planks — has been delivered just in time for Thanksgiving. Picked up by Sebasco-based Purse Line Bait, and picked off the truck by Gaius Hennin and Shelter Institute, a post and beam company in Woolwich.

Some of the wood came from Bristol, Rhode Island.



(Continued on page 3)





Women's Shipbuilding Day participants work on lateen mizzen yard

MFS's second annual Women's Shipbuilding Day attracted volunteers from as far away as Connecticut and as close as Bath. The bright sunny Sunday brought energy to the long-

ignored lateen mizzen yard, and volunteers measured, marked and began to cut out what will become the diagonal spar at the top of the mizzen. Assisted by several regular

Virginia volunteers, shipwright Rob Stevens also conducted a Planking 101 lesson. Stevens enjoyed working with these volunteers and invites all of them to become "regulars."



Come See MFS at Shelter Institute's Annual Toolapalooza December 12

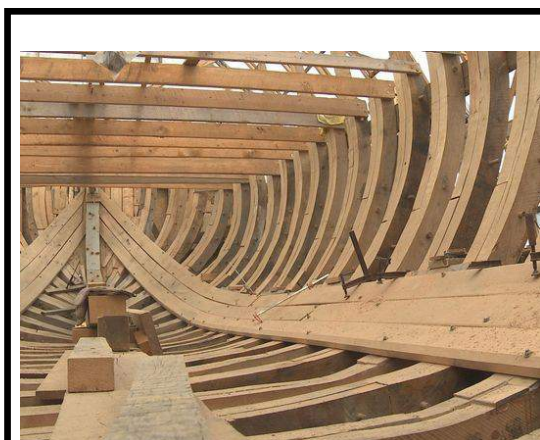
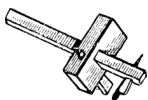
MFS volunteers are helping out at Shelter Institute's annual holiday tool sale. This long-time event attracts tool lovers from far and wide. Since these folks also tend to be interested in traditional uses for wood-working tools, such as Virginia, Shelter Institute vice-president Blueberry Beeton said that having an MFS presence at the sale "just made a lot of sense." Beeton expects lots of customers and people interested in

woodworking throughout the day. Volunteers will be talking about the project, and Jeremy Blaiklock plans to reprise his role as knee-maker. Hope to see you there on Saturday December 12 from 9-3. Shelter Institute is located at 873 Route 1 in



Woolwich, Maine.
www.shelterinstitute.com

"This long-time event attracts tool lovers from far and wide."



NEWS CENTER 1:25 p.m. EDT October 10, 2015 (Photo: WCSH)

BATH, Maine (NEWS CENTER) --

A group of English men made their home at what would become known as the Popham Colony in 1607.

Maine's Kennebec River was a cold and challenging place and the settlement last about a year and a half.

See the Bill Green's story on our web site: www.mfship.org



Join MFS for a New Years' Eve Party AND get home before midnight

MFS's third annual celebration of the new year and fundraiser will be convene 6-10 pm at the Freight Shed with a roaring bonfire, music, light refreshments, and a silent auction. Hors d'oeuvres courtesy of Henry and Marty's of Brunswick. Music from Earl Schlick's "Salty Dogs" from 7-10. Tickets \$20/person and can be purchased by calling MFS 443-4242, Saturday morning at the Farmer's Market, or at the door. Ring out the old and in with the new.



Volunteer Recognition Event at Freight Shed

Volunteer builders and do- cents recently enjoyed a meal prepared by Henry and Marty's Aaron Park, also a Virginia volunteer.

MFS Vice-President and Volunteer Coordinator Jeremy Blaiklock acknowledged the

hard work that keeps MFS going. T-shirts and hats all around! And many jobs well-done!



White Oak delivery (Continued from Page 1)

Shipwright Rob Stevens and his "bride," Board member Allison Hepler, had visited Newport Nautical Timbers in Bristol last month to pick out Danish white oak planks for Virginia's topside planks. "These boards are quarter-sawn and air-dried," said Stevens, and will be more stable. As a result, there will be less movement between planks. The other wood came from Clarence Pike

Industries in Hampton, Connecticut. MFS volunteers were on hand to help with the offloading, which took about 2 hours, and another to stack..





Clockwise from top left: RB & Dana with Jane Stevens, under cover for the winter with a donated shed; Jeremy shaping a spar; Dana and Dan fairing; more fairing from Allie; Roger, RB, and Rob contemplating a future plank; Jay, Dick and RB making a cover for the planer.



Maine's First Ship

PO Box 231

Bath ME 04530

Ph: 207-443-4242

Visit *Virginia* at

27 Commercial Street

(on the water side of the
Bath Freight Shed)

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progress on the web**

www.mfship.org

Maine's First Ship: Reconstructing the pinnacle *Virginia*

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Visitors come from far and wide to see *Virginia* this summer

MFS Treasurer Dan Burchstead reports that over 2000 visitors came through the Visitor Center this past summer season. Not including Maine, they came from 43 states. From foreign lands came 68 people from 18 countries – 19 from Canada, 20 from Great Britain, 9

from Germany, 15 from other European countries, and 5 from East Asia. The Visitor Center during the summer hours was open 6 days a week. Some days had as many as 45 visitors to come see progress on *Virginia*. Burchstead praised the effort: "A

job well done by the entire staff including docents, volunteers, and Board members."

