

# The Gallant Vagabond

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HENRY BESTON SOCIETY



AUTUMN 2015 EDITION



The Henry Beston Society's Don Wilding presents his "Henry Beston's Cape Cod" program to students from Tahanto Regional High School on Oct. 18. In the background is the Outermost House exhibit.

## Exhibit excels in Eastham

Historical Society, HBS team up at Schoolhouse

After being scattered by the elements during the famous "Blizzard of 1978," many rare artifacts from Henry Beston's "Outermost House" returned to Cape Cod this past summer.

In a joint effort between the Eastham Historical Society and the Henry Beston Society, the "Outermost House at the Schoolhouse" exhibit was showcased at the Historical Society's 1869 Schoolhouse Museum, 25 Schoolhouse Road, in 2015. The exhibit will remain at the museum through 2016.

"This may be the most comprehensive exhibit of 'Outermost House' artifacts ever presented," said Beston Society executive director Don Wilding. "We hope that visitors and Cape residents alike will join us in this celebration of one of Cape Cod's most influential writers."

Both nonprofit organizations have put together impressive collections of artifacts from Beston's cot-

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## THE OUTERMOST FIELD TRIP

Beston part of Central Mass. school's annual outing

For the third straight year, the Henry Beston Society was part of Tahanto Regional High School's annual interdisciplinary study between AP Biology, AP Literature, Introduction to Philosophy, and Art.

Leading up to the students' trip to Cape Cod in October, the group researched and read many subjects and works, including Beston's "The Outermost House."

The students from Tahanto, the regional school district for Boylston and Berlin, Mass., took in the "Outermost House"

exhibit and Don Wilding's "Henry Beston's Cape Cod" lecture/rough cut documentary film screening at the Eastham Historical Society's 1869 Schoolhouse Museum.

"We are so lucky to have you as part of our annual Cape trip," Tahanto English department chair Peter Doherty wrote in a letter to Wilding and the Beston Society. "Your passion for Beston and his legacy is inspiring. In fact, the number one comment I hear from our students about your presentation is they love how passionate you are."

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### DOCUMENTARY FILM PROJECT UPDATE

Production of the documentary film, "Henry Beston's Cape Cod," continues to roll along, thanks to the efforts of several Cape Cod businesses and organizations.

Fundraising for the project now stands at \$23,000, which is nearly halfway to the goal of \$50,000.

Producer Don Wilding, recognized by Cape Cod Magazine as one of its "12 Local People to Watch in 2015," has integrated 40 minutes of footage into his regular lecture presentations. Some of these segments

are also available for viewing on the film's website (OutermostHouse-Movie.com).

A rough-cut screening of footage, featuring Wilding and director Christopher Seufert, was hosted by the Chatham Orpheum Theater in Chatham in October 2014. The event, which filled the 166-seat facility, raised \$735 for the film project.

The Orpheum not only provided its facilities for the screening, but

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Beston actor Chris Kolb, left, and director Christopher Seufert, center, pose with Rob Costa of Art's Dune Tours during a recent shoot in the dunes of Provincetown.

## Exhibit excels at Eastham Schoolhouse

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tage, which was built in 1925. Beston's observations of the four seasons on Eastham's outer beach resulted in his classic book, "The Outermost House," which was later cited as a reason for the Cape's outer beach to be preserved as a National Seashore.

"The Schoolhouse is a wonderful place for both organizations to pool their resources and bring all of these historic artifacts together for the public to see," said Wilding. "America loves its historic icons, and, after reading 'The Outermost House,' this is another way that the public can see how Beston lived on this beloved outer beach of Cape Cod."

"The Eastham Historical Society (founded in 1963) is delighted to be hosting a display on Henry Beston's 'Outermost House,'" added Terri Rae Smith, the curator for the 1869 Schoolhouse Museum. "Boston's cottage on the dunes was and continues to be such an integral part of Eastham's history that it's only right it be exhibited in our local museum."

While staying on the beach during the 1920s, Beston would often wander into the village and visit friends. At the one-room Schoolhouse, he was a frequent visitor at the invitation of longtime Principal Otto Nickerson.

"Beston would often drop in and regale the students with nature stories and tales of his travels," Smith noted.

One of the artifacts on display in 2015 was a portion of the chimney from Beston's house, which was on loan from the Hoadley family of western Massachusetts. The Hoadleys recovered the chimney from Nauset Marsh during the summer of 1978.

"It was so wonderful to see the chimney back together with other artifacts after storm, time, tides, and so many other factors kept these things

apart for so long," said Lindsay Hoadley. "It was such a truly wonderful exhibit and it was such a pleasure to be a small part of it."

The Hoadleys also provided the "Swordfish Sword," which was given to Beston by Yngve Rongner of the Coast Guard. Beston wrote about the sword in the "Lanterns on the Beach" chapter of "The Outermost House."

Some of the other artifacts from the house on display include: Beston's walking stick, kerosene lamp, tape measure (used in drawing up the plans for the house), compass, ink well, backpack frame, coffee mug, kitchen utensils, thermometer/barometer, and cigarette lighter; the bird feeder; a window pane, and shingles; a miniature replica of the house made from old shingles; electrical parts from the Marconi station found by Beston on the beach during the 1920s; a bronze Indian head calendar; a stuffed dovekie that Beston found on the beach; a copy of the 1927 Farmer's Almanac stamped "H. Beston, The Fo'castle;" rare copies of "The Outermost House," including a signed copy, an Armed Services edition, and a French edition.

Wilding also presented his widely-acclaimed multimedia lecture program, "Henry Beston's Cape Cod," at the Schoolhouse Museum on 10 occasions in 2015, and will return for several dates (to be announced) in 2016.

The 75-minute lecture program, based on Wilding's book of the same name, features over 100 images from the Beston Society archives and rough cut footage from the Beston Society's documentary film project, now in production.

The Schoolhouse Museum, located across from the Cape Cod National Seashore's Salt Pond Visitors Center, will reopen for the 2016 season in June.

## ROUGH-CUT SCREENING DATES

### CAPE COD HOSPITAL AUXILIARY / ORLEANS

Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 11 a.m.  
Church of the Holy Spirit  
204 Monument Rd. (off Rte. 28)  
Orleans, MA 02653

### WINCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 7 p.m.

80 Washington St.  
Winchester, MA 01890

### WELLESLEY FREE LIBRARY

Sunday, April 24, 2016 at 2 p.m.  
530 Washington St.  
Wellesley, MA 02482

**Check [outermosthousemovie.com](http://outermosthousemovie.com) for updates.**

## Documentary film project update

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also for interviews. William Martin, author of "Cape Cod" and several other history novels, had his interview session held at the Orpheum.

In May, the production team resumed shooting reenactment scenes with Beston actor Chris Kolb at the Euphoria Dune Shack, part of Seufert's residency with the Peaked Hill Trust. Transportation to and from the remote reaches of the dunes was provided by Rob Costa of Art's Dune Tours of Provincetown.

In June, the film project received \$267 as a beneficiary of the first annual "Taste of the Cape" at the Four Points Sheraton in Eastham. The benefit, sponsored and produced by the Eastham Chamber of Commerce, featured

culinary contributions from the Four Points Sheraton, Arnold's Clam Bar, the Chocolate Cafe, The Fairway, Guapo's, Karoo, Local Break, Marconi Beach BBQ, Nauset Ice Cream, Red Barn Pizza, Stewart's Seafood, and Van Rensselaer's. Entertainment was provided by the Cape Cod Slackers.

Additional support for the film has been provided by Glenn and Sheila Mott, the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod, the Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank Charitable Foundation Trust, the Inn at the Oaks, Silver Hollow Audio, the First Congregational Church of Chatham, the Cape Cod National Seashore and affiliated nonprofits, the Cape Cod Music Chamber Festival, Attorney Karen Lavoie, Paul Koulouris, Robert Dwyer, Jeff Peterson, Frank Mortimer, Harriet Wilding, and Phyllis Ness.

## Beston part of school's annual outing

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"Not only did you impart your knowledge of Beston's history and his 'Year of Life on the Great Beach' upon our students, but also, more importantly, you provided them with a clear example of how one person — both

Beston and you — can make a difference when they follow their passion with a sense of purpose and elemental will."

The Tahanto Regional Middle/High School Student Activity Fund also presented the Beston Society with a check for \$250.



Promoting the work and philosophies of the author of *The Outermost House* since 2000

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