

Maine Sea Coast Mission honors two at Sunbeam Awards

By Jason Wimbuscus | Aug 24, 2011

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(Photo by Jason Wimbuscus)

Ralph Stanley speaks at the Maine Sea Coast Mission Sunbeam Awards Gala Aug. 19.



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BAR HARBOR — The Maine Sea Coast Mission held its annual Sunbeam Awards Aug. 19 at the Bar Harbor Club where attendees experienced a clear late summer evening as they enjoyed a cocktail hour on the patio and a three-course dinner before the presentation of awards to the 2011 honorees. This year, the ceremony was held in honor of area philanthropist Edith Dixon and renowned Southwest Harbor boat builder and historian Ralph Stanley.

Dixon is a patron of the arts both in Down East Maine and in Philadelphia, where she lives during the fall and spring. Locally, Dixon is known for her philanthropy work with Maine Coast Memorial Hospital in Ellsworth, the Grand Theater in Ellsworth, as well as with Schoodic Arts for All, a nonprofit that promotes the arts in the Schoodic Peninsula area and surrounding Down East communities. Most recently, she has been actively involved with the improvement of the Schoodic Education known for his work with various area historical societies and libraries. During the awards ceremony, Stanley spoke of the importance of keeping the craft of wooden boat building alive and announced tentative plans to begin a foundation that would be devoted to teaching such woodworking skills to future generations.

Following the awards ceremony, attendees were invited to dance the night away to the music of Brian Catell and Jump City Jazz.