
JOHN GARDNER TSCA NEWS NOTES

The Latest from Around our Chapter

We suggested near the end of our last Newsletter that members, friends of the Chapter and others in our sphere maintain contact electronically and share our latest projects, both large and small, whether in the Shop, in the Garage or in the Yard. We will collect them and share as News Notes. We are all in this Storm together; Let's support one another and share some cheerful News.

This just in from Jim Downs:

Jim is an active Volunteer at Mystic Seaport on Schooner Brilliant and an expert furniture refinisher. Note the faux marble top on his bureau. He sends us this message:

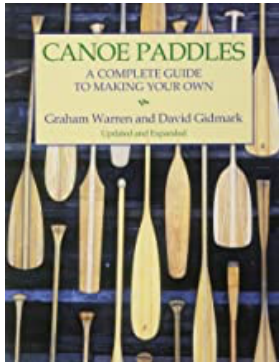
“Thanks for the latest small craft newsletter! It's great the see folks doing good things & enjoying themselves, rather than hearing the constant drone of tragic health news.

The news letter encouraged people to send in reports of their latest projects. It inspired me to do the same. I've attached a few pictures of a couple of my latest works. I'm not sure if they are exactly on-point for your fine publication, but I'm submitting for you consideration; they both have a nautical theme. A couple of the pics are of a three-drawer chest that I spent the better part of a year working on. The other is a "plaque" with a clipper ship that attaches to the top of a large tool chest (an old one that I restored a couple of years back, but didn't decorate until now). If you are interested, I can supply a bunch more pics and some contextual info, as well.”

Beautiful work, Jim! And note that the featured boat in the picture is a Schooner.



How About a Book Review:



Canoe Paddles, a Complete Guide to Making Your Own by Graham Warren and David Gidmark. Great chapters on design and types of wood as well as Oil vs. Varnish finishing. Included are 10 designs using an offset system similar to boatbuilding (except in thirty seconds). Included are well detailed, step by step procedures to build single plank, bent shaft and double paddles. The high quality color photographic prints in the center section alone are worth the price of admission. (\$16.69 on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com))

Recommended highly! I'm going to build a paddle for a friend to celebrate his canoe's (not his) hundredth birthday. Am thinking of a quiet water Otter Tail, for easy entry, narrow for maneuverability with a pear grip. Or should it be a Voyager with an iconic diamond shaped blade that one can "paddle all day and never get tired"tough to decide.



The Wooden Boat Show is returning to Mystic Seaport Museum August 14-16, 2020. Due to growing concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, Wooden Boat Publications, Inc. has made the difficult but necessary decision to postpone the 29th Annual Wooden Boat Show. Further information at <https://www.thewoodenboatshow.com>



All of which begs the question, **when do we hold our 50th Anniversary John Gardner Small Craft Workshop? The Seaport has requested we keep it in June**, where it was, the 26th thru 28th. That would make it separate from the Wooden Boat Show so we would not have the Show people present, however, we would be the featured activity that weekend. The timing could coincide with the lessening of restraints on travel and gatherings. and become a celebration of escape from shelter-in-place for museum-

goers and boating enthusiasts. As with all postponements, we need to track directives from the Authorities. So let's proceed with our planning. Advertising is already out there from the "Ash Breeze" and "Messing About in Boats" (wait until you see the May issue!). We will closely monitor developments and keep you posted.



Another postponement, this one in our Shop. **Brian Cooper has decided not to continue building the Culler Good Little Skiff.** After retiring in mid-March, he relocated the set-up to his garage in East Windsor but in the weeks since has decided instead to pursue on-the-water activities and add further features to his skin-on-frame Whitehall. **If someone would like to finish the project (planking, interior, rig) let Brian know w/in a week or two at cooperbd@aol.com** It was a big hit with Matt Mackenzie’s “Sailor’s Skills” class in mid February. We thank Brian for that.

And this just in from National TSCA:

John Weiss, our National Membership leader, sends this along from the Seattle Area where they have been on the front lines in the battle against the Corona Virus: a Shop Towel Face Mask. Watch this for entertainment, if nothing else. I love it when he runs out of staples....

John says: “This version is easy enough for guys to make!

Note in the comments that a knowledgeable person tested it, and it works reasonably well - better than a surgical mask!”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mai-UqdNRi8&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3_z0zvq97dansg0P0LmeitBHY4reDXpEUsNb9cbXrTiTA8GSP6CTk5cMc

We hope that this little set of Notes has cheered you up a bit. Remember, if you have a project or read a good book you would like to share, please send it to us at smallcrafter@gmail.com and we will pass it along to others.



As a bonus, the next two pages are copies of the original flyers sent out by Mystic Seaport for the first Small Craft Conference - Rowing Workshop for June 6th & 7th, 1970. Note the beautiful drawings by then Curator John Leavitt. Thanks to the Seaport Library and Collections Research Center Staff! More to follow in coming weeks. Enjoy!

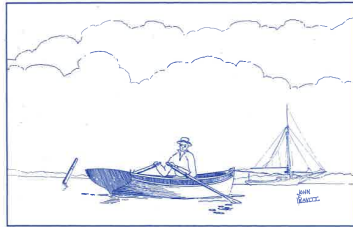
Meanwhile, Be Well, Be Safe and Think Spring!

Bill & Karen Rutherford

File?

**SMALL CRAFT CONFERENCE — ROWING WORKSHOP
JUNE 6 AND 7, 1970**

Sponsored by
THE SMALL CRAFT LABORATORY
of
THE MARINE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED
at
MYSTIC SEAPORT



Recreational rowing enthusiasts are cordially invited to participate in this informal workshop.

- *Problems of pulling boat design*
- *Revival of recreational rowing*
- *Rowing demonstrations*
- *On-the-spot rowing competition*
- *Inspection and evaluation of various pulling boats gathered for the workshop: Whitehalls, Maine peapods, dories, a St. Lawrence River skiff.*

Conferrees are invited to bring their own boats for exhibition and demonstration.

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?
Fill out and return registration form below.
Identification badges for admission to workshop sessions and the Mystic Seaport grounds will be sent to you.
Ample accommodations available in Mystic Seaport vicinity.

Trailer space, launching and docking facilities provided.

ROWING WORKSHOP REGISTRATION
JUNE 6 AND 7, 1970

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If group, how many? _____

Do you plan to bring your own boat? _____

If so, what kind? _____

What subjects would you like to discuss in the workshop sessions? _____



