
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, the Garage or 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. Send photos, add a few words, what books you are reading, what you have discovered on screen and, if you are willing, a favorite hiking trail or local walk to smallcrafter@gmail.com. Thanks. Soon we will again be "Social Distancing" on the Water.

This just in from Nicolas Alley:

Our Jan/Feb Newsletter shared a photo of Nic's CLC Chester Yawl under construction with planks all wired in place. In the interim he has completed epoxyfying every thing in place, flipped it over and installed air chambers fore and aft. With the interior complete, finishing is well underway. The hull is white, as is the area under the floor boards. Fitted with a drop-in Piantadosi sliding seat rowing unit she will be fast as well as beautiful.





The Seaport has requested we keep the June dates for our John Gardner Small Craft Workshop which will also be the 50th Anniversary of John Gardner's first Small Craft Conference - Rowing Workshop. Keeping our Workshop in June will facilitate launching, allow us more space as well as provide an opportunity for people to celebrate a return to the Museum. We will be subject to Authority restrictions, of course. Watch the Seaport website <https://www.mysticseaport.org/event/small-craft-workshop/> for updates.

A Reply from Jim Downs:

Last week's issue of "News Notes" featured a beautifully finished bureau by Jim; here is his reply: "Thanks so much for including the bureau in the newsletter!. You mentioned the marble top (I have a sheepish grin on my face). Actually, the top is wood...I faux painted it to look like green marble, followed by 16 coats of acrylic varnish and finished with an automotive polishing regimen. It's very smooth & even cool to the touch, like marble. Thanks again for the article."

And Now To Recommendations for ScreenTime:

Before the Storm, the controversy was Screens vs. Books. Well, it now appears that Screens are winning. One screen time we enjoy is "Walking Through History with Tony Robinson" on Amazon Prime. For 50 or so minutes he hikes through various parts of England tracing an historical theme. He'll do 50 miles or more over 5 days, hiking through remote valleys and over high coastal hills. One theme we really enjoyed was "Smuggling along the Cornish Coast" which he ended off Land's End by hitching a ride in a lovely varnished Bantry Gig. Not only are these very informative, but also great virtual exercise.

Another "Series" can be seen on Mystic Seaport Museum's new digital content center. It is a one-stop source for existing videos, photographs, and blog posts as well as new ones they are in the process of producing. Their first new video is my favorite, a [walk-through of the Watercraft Hall](#) with Chris Gasiorek, Vice President of Watercraft Preservation and Programs. It has just been posted, a two part behind-the-scenes look at the Small Craft Collection. Contact Membership to be added to their email list or visit <https://stories.mysticseaport.org>

And for those still addicted to Print, WoodenBoat has available for free their latest issue #274 (May/June 2020). They have invited us to share this link with friends, customers and contacts: <https://www.woodenboat.com/free-digital-issue-woodenboat>

Now for a bit of Humor: Tired of being cooped up? Need a Vacation from this Vacation? Try this: Pack your bags, step outside your bedroom door and walk down to your spare bedroom. Unpack and enjoy the view from a whole new set of windows. Stay as long as you like....

Now for a tour of our shop: we find being home alone is very calming and offers lots of opportunity to accomplish those projects which have been on the shelf for so long:

First, the Puzzle Tray: I found this in Woodworker’s Journal in December 2013, thought it a fine Christmas gift in December 2020 and completed it just last month. Impetus was another Christmas present, an oversize, 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle from Lee Valley, that I also gifted Karen. Upon receiving the finished Puzzle Tray, she immediately (in three weeks) completed the puzzle, framed it and is now ready for another. The end trays slide out for sorting pieces and, just in case you do not complete the puzzle in one sitting, slide the trays slide back in and take the whole tray off the dining room table and set it in another room.



Next on the Agenda: Masks

Bob Andrie of Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers sews his own sails for his models so decided to sew face masks for his friends. Karen decided she would do so as well. Has everyone tried the Shop Towel Mask described in last week’s News? Fun, & Disposable. Karen used a pattern from Apple News/Washington Post for mine which nicely covers my workshop dust mask when I go out. Hers is from a nurse friend who is making masks for routine situation support people in nursing homes. It looks similar to a surgical mask. Karen used some old fabric she was saving for a quilting session. Very colorful! We both are smiling....



That about wraps up this issue of “News Notes”. We hope it brought some entertainment and humor to your confinement. We all look forward to the time when we may again freely “Social Distance” on the Water.

One last item: continuing our program of sharing gems the Seaport’s Collections Research Center staff found from the first Small Craft Conference - Rowing Workshop, the next page is a copy of the route of the “Parade of Boats” originally scheduled for 2 pm Saturday, June 6th, 1970 but due to heavy rain, postponed to Sunday, June 7th 1970. Enjoy.

(The space below is reserved for your project, favorite book or garden flowers - send them to smallcrafter@gmail.com).

Meanwhile, here is a photo of Karen’s Tulips; yes, they made it through yesterday’s storm:



Be Well, Be Safe and Think Spring!

Bill & Karen

