
JOHN GARDNER TSCA NEWS NOTES

The Latest from Around our Chapter

Continuing our effort to maintain contact electronically in this time of stay-at-home, we will continue to share local member's, far-flung friends of the Chapter and interested other's latest projects, nautical or otherwise, as we weather this Storm together. Please send us your diversions whether they be in the form of good books, interesting designs with which to take dream cruises or simply good hikes to get some fresh air. smallcrafter@gmail.com.

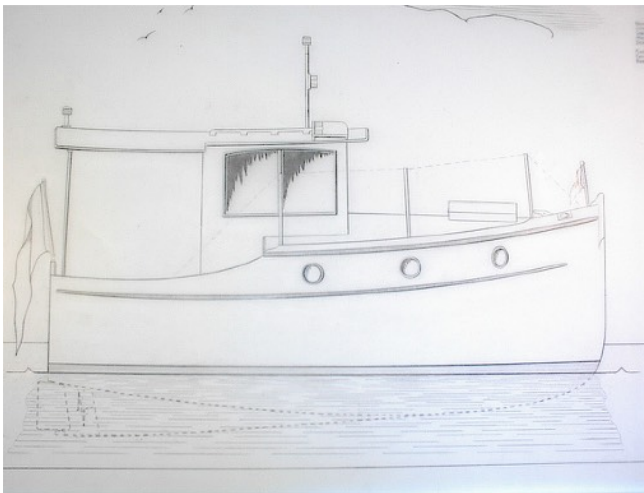
We remain under Connecticut's "Stay Safe, Stay at Home" Executive Order which in addition to maintaining six feet of social distance, puts a hold on public gatherings "of any size for any reason" through May 20 so that precludes our monthly gathering planned for May 1st.

Looking forward, May 20 may just be just when a reopening plan is presented to the Governor, so a gradual reopening is more likely in June. Our planned Oar & Sail outing at Powers Lake, planned for June 7th, remains in our schedule although a "rain date" would be considered. Our John Gardner Small Craft Workshop, its 50th Anniversary, remains on Mystic Seaport Museum's schedule for the last weekend in June, which supports their plan to phase in outdoor activities first, as well as provide an opportunity for small boat enthusiasts like us to get some fresh air and stoke our passion for traditional small craft.

Now, for the good news: Abbott's Lobster in the Rough opens Monday for take out - can Summer be far behind?

Now for a bit of Nautical Dreaming:

This just in from Dane Rochelle:

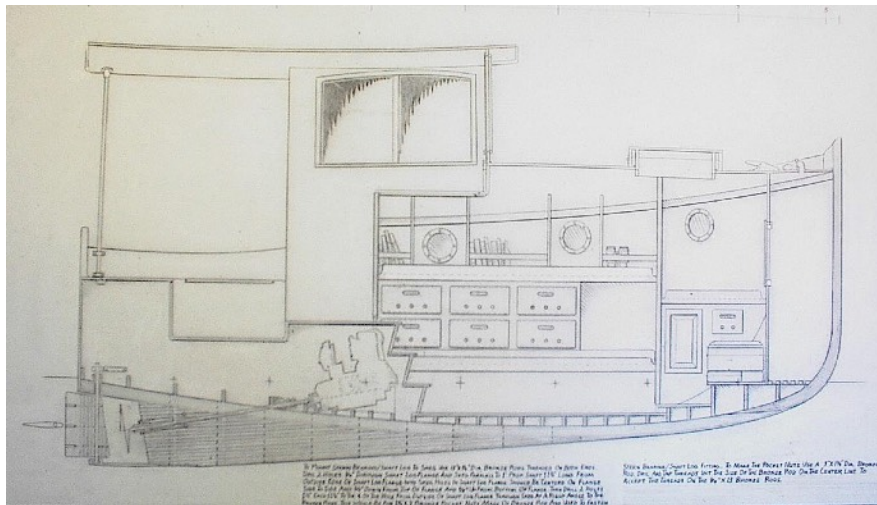


Hi All,

Escapist of me (not-unusually so), but I wanted to share something about a little cruiser that has fascinated me for several years now, and which would seem able to fulfill most of one's usual in-shore cruising needs/desires. It is designed as an efficient, cozy little cruiser, diesel power, displacement hull, for slow-cruising. Very much in the 'Walden' spirit of things, but water-borne. Shallow enough to get you in where others cannot go, capable enough to cruise long-distance, with enough accommodation to be livable enough to be comfortable (for some of us anyway) for a bit

of a stretch. Tag along a little Monhegan Pram and you'll be able to get some exercise and get ashore to stretch your legs some, and maybe gather some mussels for dinner. Add a

little windage forward (hang your laundry - a quilt perhaps - to dry from your boathook tied to the stem), and catch the afternoon breeze for a few miles downwind without the purring of the sewing machine, quietly heading north back from a cruise down south somewhere. No need to rush. Late in the day, find a place to fetch up and cook yourself a simple meal featuring the fish or mussels you caught or bought a few miles back earlier in the day. Then a glass of wine, or maybe some tea or coffee on the back deck, then a rowing lap around the anchorage and set a second anchor for the night. Then a good read of your choice (WiFi is just out of reach). Then a gaze at the stars, Pleiades in your binoculars maybe, and maybe Andromeda, for a few minutes, the skies are so dark. Then finally tuck in about 11 for a relaxed early start next morning to continue your meanderings, after a morning swim of course, followed by some pancakes and coffee, and orange juice kept cool in the bilge water, as you do your morning journal entry before weighing anchors. In a few hours the prevailing breeze will kick in again, and you can throttle back as you did yesterday afternoon.



Perfect for a weekend at Napatree or a cruise down east or down the ICW or Erie Canal loop. Escapism has its place...

Thanks, Dane. For more about Tom McNaughton's little gem go to http://www.macnaughtongroup.com/maddy_18.htm. If you would like to add a sail, check out Phil Bolger's "Marina Cruiser" (Ch 36 in "Boats with an Open Mind") or for a bit more room, Sam Devlin's "Surf Scoter". (Ed.)

Did You See This?

Dan Nelson forwarded this article by Dana Jensen from April 22nd's New London Day: "Syma Ebbin of Groton wanted to do something to mark Earth Day on Wednesday. She and her husband, Micheal Kane, and their son, Elias Kane, cleaned up trash along Thomas Road in the Birch Plain Creek watershed area Wednesday.

Ebbin is an associate professor of the University of Connecticut Avery Point Agricultural and Resource Economics Department, a research coordinator with Connecticut Sea Grant and also the faculty adviser for the campus ECO Husky Club. She said the club had scheduled an Earth Day cleanup event but it was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.



She decided to get out and clean up the area anyway with her family because she wanted "to remind myself it's Earth Day."

Syma, if you recall, brings her Eco-Huskies to our Avery Point Community Boathouse for the "Burgers & Hots" (dog) lunch that our Ellie Czarnowski hosts after their spring and fall Pine Island clean-ups. Syma leads UCONN's annual Earth Day Celebration in which our Chapter participates. It was cancelled this year, but Syma made it out there anyway...(Ed.)

Recently Received:

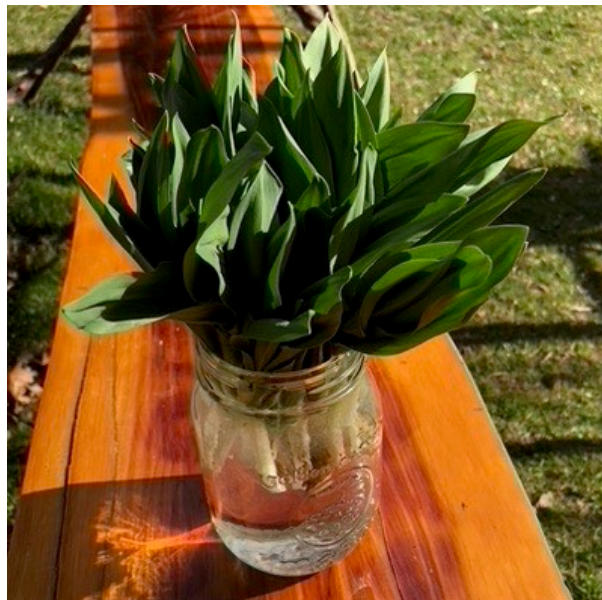
A Note from John Henning who with his wife Rebecca and daughter Dana regularly visits to attend Spring and Fall PILOTS Weekends at the Seaport: "We are doing well here (although some are a little stir crazy). Rebecca is working from home so the home office received some needed reorganization and culling of papers. Dana is doing well with remote school but missing her friends and activities. Since her Spring rowing season has been canceled she and I have decided to build a single scull for her to row... we have ordered an Oxford shell kit from CLC, and have been preparing a work space in the basement. I'll keep you posted of our progress once we receive the kit."

They remembered Carl Kaufman's Small Craft Workshop Sculling session. (Ed.)

Don't miss this: Mystic Seaport Museum's "Digital Museum" at <https://stories.mysticseaport.org>. Check out their latest videos: Watercolor Art Demo with Seaport Gallery's Joel Popadics, a behind the scenes tour of the Antique Marine Engine collection or my favorite, Walter Ansel gives us a tour of the Eastern Rigger, "Roann". Sign up for their news@mysticseaport.org to be advised of new videos as well as upcoming virtual learning programs. This week featured Moby Dick, What's New in the Sky and Shipyard Tools.

In a Note from Ralph Szur, a regular at our Small Craft workshops:

“I have enclosed a photo of some "ramps" which are wild leeks that grow in the woods near my home. This is one of the first signs of spring in Kent, New York that give me hope, along with the bees flying from my hives, that spring is really here.



I am working on the restoration of a 40-year-old fiberglass Peapod that I have put off every winter and finally during the Corona virus winter, I have tackled as a project. I am almost complete with the restoration and when I finish in a week or so I will put together an article about the restoration project with pictures and send it along to you.”

And for a Breath of Fresh Air:

We'll leave you with a photo of our favorite local hike (please send us yours):



This is Knox Preserve, an Avalonia Land Trust Property on Quiambaug Cove, just around Wampassic Point from Stonington Harbor, so is nearby. It is a little gem of a natural area on a tidal cove alive with waterfowl and migrating birds.

You will find it on the south side of Wilcox Road ~200 feet south of Route #1, abutting Quiambaug Cove with short trails, approximately 0.5 miles in total. It is former farmland with old orchards and stone walls with small brackish pond. It has a purple martin nesting site. And it has Kayak access.

Avalonia properties are open to the public, subject to restricted bird nesting areas. Consider Joining.

More info at <https://avalonia.org/preserves/knox-preserve/>