
JOHN GARDNER TSCA NEWS NOTES

The Latest from Around our Chapter

This is the latest in our series of News Notes which we have been issuing during this time of restrictions due to Covid-19. Rather than wait for one of our sometimes monthly Newsletters, we send these Notes to share our current activities, whether on land, in the shop or preparing to go to sea. Feel free to share with us at smallcrafter@gmail.com your latest activities, whether they be good books, favorite hikes or getting boats ready to launch so we may social distance on the water.

We have been weathering this Storm since the Ides of March and now the Summer Solstice. Some things have changed. We now know homemade masks are best, Zoom meetings can last as long as real ones and Phases seem to advance at a glacial pace. One casualty of our battle with the Virus has been our John Gardner Small Craft Workshop, planned to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the first Small Craft Conference - Rowing Workshop held by John Gardner himself in the now far-off year of 1970. Our Board decided June 1st that holding the Workshop would be difficult with the travel limitations, the required 14 day quarantines as well as the hesitancy of many of our more senior and at-risk members to expose themselves to other than close family groups. We so advised Mystic Seaport Museum who concurred and cancelled the event as shown on their updated Calendar.

It was a tough decision since we had advertisements and articles in place to advise our members and the public of our special offerings planned for the weekend. One good thing about Anniversaries; they come around yearly, so save up your thoughts and plans for a year and think how we may make the celebration all that more special in 2021.

Meanwhile, life goes on. We in Connecticut are in Phase 2. Restaurants are serving open-air dinners. Mystic Seaport is open for outdoor activities. People are putting boats in the water. So let's celebrate what is actually happening and share some of our correspondent's recent accomplishments.

Mystic Seaport Ride the Wind Week thru June 26th

Kite flying, making paper airplanes and learning about different types of sails are included as well as free rides on the Catboat Breck Marshall. The Boathouse is open and free with admission. Take out one of the traditional small craft or, if someone in your group prefers, try the pedal-powered boat "Yankee Pedaler" and cruise the River.

Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers June 27th

Hans Berger reports that they plan to sail models at the floating dock just in from the South entrance, the same location where they hold their annual June In-the-Water events. It is a large dock and which should be able to fit 6 to 8 people with models. Static Models will be on tables. Participants must read and follow the Reopen rules. The dock will be closed to all visitors but the operating, radio controlled boats will be easily seen by the public.

Contact Bob Andrle or Hans Berger if interested in participating (I can put you in touch with them), or even better, go watch the action.

A Place for Lunch and a Sweater

Ben Fuller is pressing on with his rehab of his Culler Good Little Skiff. He reports:

“Interior paint on the skiff gets started tomorrow. I drilled a couple of dory holes in the sheerstrake today getting rid of the painter eye in the stem. Am thinking about adding a lunch platform underneath the stern sheets, something common in the old duckers. Keeps lunch and your sweater out of the bilge water. Chesapeake colors are pretty plain, white with a green rub rail. The centerboard trunk is going to get painted green as well as some of the old iron fastenings are weeping a bit.”

A New Sail Rig for the Ultra-light Whitehall

This from Brian Cooper: “Here are pictures of my latest sail design, a balanced lug rig, and new rudder. I made the sail from a tarp and it worked well enough that I am going to make a cloth sail now. I need to make a tiller for the rudder. I also am working on some wooden block and tackle.”



A Beautiful Melonseed is Available

Bill Armitage has decided to part with the Melonseed skiff he so meticulously restored:

He writes: “Melonseed Skiff by Brush Creek Yacht's built in 2006 to the specifications of the Smithsonian/Chapelle offsets. The boat is in great condition. The boat is 13' 6" in length with a beam of 4' 3" and is constructed of Atlantic White Cedar planking over white oak steam bent frames, Cypress keel and deck beams. The hull is encapsulated with epoxy and

fiberglass cloth both inside and out, and the interior is finished with a natural varnish. The hull is painted using Awlgrip paint system. Decks are Cedar with fiberglass coating and varnish topcoat. Floorboards are Cypress with an oiled finish. Coamings, rubrails and transom are mahogany. The white Dacron sail is still crisp and in great condition, the boat is gaff rigged with wooden mast hoops. The 2006 custom fit trailer is also in great condition with very low miles. It is for sale at \$4,000.”

Contact me and I will put you in touch with Bill. He does great work.



A Forward-Facing Oar System

Also for sale is George Spragg's forward-facing oar system. Saves one from looking over their shoulder when rowing....contact me and I will put you in touch with Kate Wells to make an offer.

A Garden Bench makes it out of the Shop into the Garden



The last wood shop project of the season is a shortened version of a garden bench featured in Lee Valley's How-To section. Constructed from cedar decking and gray stain from Big Blue (with some boatbuilding epoxy securing the larger knots) it makes a pleasant spot to view the garden, listen to birdsongs or dream about sailing. Easy to follow directions may be found at <https://www.leevalley.com/en-us/discover/projects/gardening/2020/march/an-easy-to-build-garden-bench>

A Salty Photo

We leave you with this excellent photo by Sharon Brown, shot from the Amistad's inflatable:

