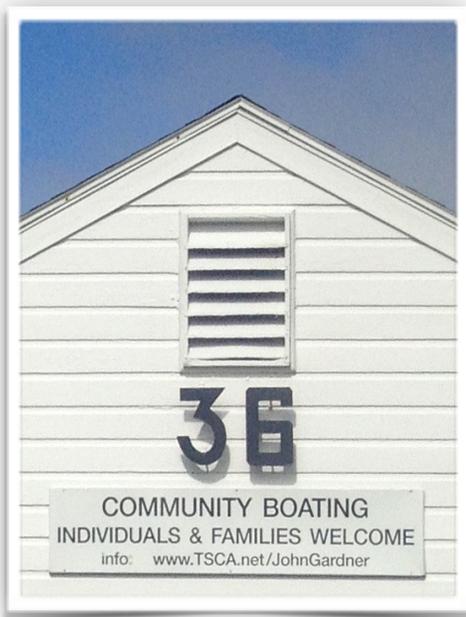


JGTSCA

John Gardner Chapter of Traditional Small Craft Association



**Welcome to John Gardner
Traditional Small Craft Association.**

Reminder: **our next monthly meeting is Friday, April 3rd**; come early at 5:30 pm to share a pot-luck before the meeting. We are planning an outing on the Thames River on April 26th; stay tuned for details on that and mark your calendars for our TSCA Meet at the WoodenBoat show. A copy of the flier is enclosed; full information to sign up is on the Seaport website.

Whether you have an interest in traditional boatbuilding, messing about in small boats, or helping to preserve our maritime heritage come join us and share the camaraderie of kindred minds.

We invite you to attend one of our meetings, go for a row, or get involved with our next boatbuilding project.

The Community Boathouse is Building 36, at the University of Connecticut at Avery Point.

Visit us at TSCA.net/JohnGardner or on Facebook



Mystic Seaport Boathouse volunteer Alanna Edwards takes her dog Tucker for a row in MARY (Sharon Brown Photograph)

Traditional Boat of the Month - the Flat-Bottom Skiff

Sometimes called a "Flatiron Skiff" after the shape of Grandma's iron that she heated on the stove, a flat-bottomed skiff is famously, "hard to design but easy to build". With only four lines (sheer and rocker in elevation, chine and sheer in plan) plus a cross section, it is devilishly difficult to get right. Most designers use an earlier fisherman's skiff as a starting point. The trickiest part is picking the point where the bottom transitions from flat for a sweeping curve to a transom that just clears our wake.

Construction is simpler. Back in the day of wide old growth planks you could just bend them around a mold, add a transom and cross plank the bottom. The result can be a beautifully proportioned boat like the Westport skiff tied up to the floating dock under the Conrad's bow. In this day of plywood it is almost that easy. Cross planked bottoms have some real advantages: shorter pieces of wood, smooth, easy to clean bottoms inside and little need for framing or floorboards.

Case in point is our Atkin skiff "Nina" a-building at our Avery Point Community Boathouse. Of course, it will be rigged for sail, but the hull design is very much Flatiron Skiff. Another excellent example is Robert Steward's "Susan" skiff, one of which is in the Mystic Seaport Boathouse Livery fleet, skiff "Mary". What follows is Sharon Brown's ode to "Mary". We think you will enjoy her as much as we do; come try her out. If you get excited and want to build one, the plans are available at DNGoodchild.com for a whopping \$3.50; enter the Shellback Library, click on Small Craft Plans, scroll down to General Purpose and Utility Boats and look for Susan.

Respectfully, Mr. Cleat

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Small Craft Notes from Sharon Brown:

Susan Skiff (MARY, date?) 11' 3" x 3'10"

Be serious, be passionate, wake up!

First published in the Rudder in 1952

Robert M. Steward's design for a "Susan--simple eleven foot flat bottom rowboat," has stood the test of time. Intended to be nothing more than a plain, stable, easy to handle flat bottomed rowboat, her simplicity makes her construction suitable for amateurs and for many years, an introductory project for students at The Apprenticeshop founded by Lance Lee at Bath's Maine Maritime Museum in 1972 and quoted in H. Taft's, *Good Wooden Boats From Maine* (Camden, ME. 1982), "The things we're anxious to see restored are craftsmanship, human energy, a concern for the quality of whatever is being done, and the sort of long-range thinking that involves people in pride-creating endeavor."



Our MARY epitomizes Steward's design intentions, the skill of her unknown apprentice builder and her every day use capitalizes on Lee's philosophy. The Boathouse mantra, "Everybody loves MARY," is easily understood by anyone who takes her leathered 7' or 7 1/2' spruce oars in hand and pushes off from the Boathouse float, easily stroking her responsive hull tracking on her small skeg toward the channel. You immediately feel comfortable as she is stable and not fighting you. You may adjust your weight slightly or your handle grip, but you are essentially at ease and ready to explore, enjoy the surroundings, or teach your child/companion how to row. She's a peach! And for this reason often preferred by Boathouse personnel rushing to assist a customer.

Weighing ca. 150 lbs., she is planked with 5/8" northern cedar on oak frames, with a standard 3/4" cedar cross planked bottom, and copper clenched nail and silicon bronze screw fastened. Her topsides and thwarts are painted white, and interior and rubrail finished out with a mix of linseed oil and turpentine, facilitating her annual maintenance. She is fitted with two rowing stations to accommodate up to three souls comfortably on her lines though she is best appreciated with two or less.

The pages of *WoodenBoat* No. 87 and *Design Quarterly* No 8 offer related insight. Though Steward's articles appeared regularly in publications like *Rudder* and *WoodenBoat*, he is perhaps best known for his *Boatbuilding Manual* first issued in 1970 (International Marine, Camden, ME) and on the occasion of the 4th edition issue in 1994, was labelled by John Gardner, "The best building manual for wooden boats there is." (*National Fisherman* 74(9)Jan:38-39).

Our Susan, MARY, was donated in November 2001 by Carole and Wilbur S. Langdon III. Their family home fronted the Mystic River across from Mystic Seaport and their skiff was named for their mother, Mary L. Langdon, who passed away in 2001. A friend to the community at large and a much loved and respected voice teacher, Mary shared an interest in the sea, boats and the natural world and earlier donated the Beetle Cat WILBUR LANGDON, named in memory of her husband. When visitors pull MARY up to WILBUR LANGDON's mooring it is a fitting tribute to the contributions they both made to the Mystic community, and reminder to those who knew them both, a continuation of their history on the river.

Their son has arranged many donations "in kind" over the years in support of Mystic Seaport Museum and especially The Boathouse where examples of such mentorship and philanthropy are living lessons for all.

Around the Shops:

At **Avery Point Community Boathouse**: Bill Armitage has been busy with the "Susan B Holland", a modified Herreshoff rowing boat. It is right side up with a freshly sanded interior and new foot rests ready for final prep prior to her upcoming summer adventure.



George Spragg, Andy Strode and Rob Pittaway are moving right along on the Atkin skiff "Nina" which now sports a new nose as an oak false stem has been fitted. The mast thwart has been cut for the mast and is ready to be glued in place. The seat thwarts are trimmed, edges beveled and beaded, ready to be screwed in place. The plank rivets are complete and finish sanding has begun. The boom jaws are installed and the curved gaff jaws cut from a solid block of oak we found.

In **Home Shops**: Peter Vermilya has set up the molds and stems for his Delaware Ducker and is fine tuning their alignment. He has moved from lofting to the building phase, setting up the boat atop the lofting table.

Your **Editor** has a sea chest partially assembled on his workbench similar to the ones on the Morgan but also informed by an article in *WoodenBoat* #147. He took the easy way out, however, using box joints rather than dovetails.

At the **Seaport Boathouse** the power skiff "Gideon Manchester" and the Seaford skiff "Helen Packer" we're refurbished and moved to the outdoor boat shed. The big Swampscot Dion dory and a small Chassion dory "Fly" moved in. The Dion's exterior is complete. The photo shows the entire Thursday crew involved in rolling her over: leader Jim McGuire, Ted Stanton, Spencer Johnson, Bill Littel, Ed Rothman and Jeff Undercoffler. All before coffee.



In the nearby **John Gardner Boatshop** the same crew moved Beetle Cat "Leo J. Telesmanick" outside under his canvas cover and moved Beetle Cat "Li'l Babe" in for her springtime freshening up. Beetle Cat "Lisa" remains inside for further work. She was turned right side up using overhead block and tackles preparatory to replacing a few frames. The second photo shows Ed Rothman, Jim McGuire and Ted Stanton fitting a new frame fresh from Beetle, Inc.'s Boatshop; they drove up the day before to pick up some specific frames. Like Ford cars, Beetle still supplies spare parts, just remember to call ahead so they are steamed, ready and waiting.

John Gardner Chapter TSCA
UCONN Avery Point Club House
Regular Business Meeting
March 1, 2015
Draft Minutes

JGTSCA President Ellie Czarnowski was in the Chair. She called the Meeting to order at 1:30pm.

Introduction of Members

Members Ellie Czarnowski, Peter Vermilya, John Symons, Bill Rutherford, Karen Rutherford, George Spragg, Andy Strode, John Hacunda, Bill Armitage, Phil Behney, Rob Pittaway, Bruce Cresser, John Stambough and Jim Clark were present, as well Ted and Judy Stanton.

1. Minutes from February 01, 2015 meeting

The Minutes for the 01/01/2015 Meeting, as published on the JGTSCA Website, were unanimously adopted.

http://www.tsca.net/johngardner/minutes_jan15.htm

2. Treasurers Report

Treasurer John Symons reported a Bank Balance of \$4053.18. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously adopted.

Ellie handed over to John a thumb drive she had purchased for use with the Treasurer's records.

3. New Business

a. 2015 Membership Dues Report

John Symons reported that there are 18 paid up members for 2015.

Andy Strode checked the JGTSCA mailbox a week ago – it was empty.

b. NINA, club building project.

George Spragg stated that three seats were being fitted, boom jaws built, the mast step and partners were in place, and the riveting was 2/3rds done. Bruce Cresser has shaped the centerboard and will add the lead, apply an epoxy coating, and paint it with bottom paint. Bill Rutherford will be making gaff jaws, Karen Rutherford will build a sail this April using the Seaport's sewing machine.

George reminded members that the Wednesday sessions at the Avery Point shop were still meeting from 9am until 3pm and that any member who could stop by would be welcome.

c. Fleet Report and Club Maintenance.

The Number 3 dory is ready to come into the shop once the SUSAN B. HOLLAND is finished. Bill Armitage is installing new foot risers in the HOLLAND.

d. Chaisson dory

Phil Behney and George Spragg will help Sandy D'Esopo take home his Chaisson dory.

e. Shop Queue

John Symons has right of first refusal for use of the club house for a personal project once the club dories have received their annual maintenance.

f. Bank account

Ellie Czarnowski will add her name as a signer to the JGTSCA Bank account.

4. New Business

- a. Earth Day, April 18th.
UConn students and alumni will hold a "Cache in and Trash Out" event Saturday April 18th at Bluff Point. They have been offered the use of the club dories.
- b. Pine Island clean up
Scheduled for Thursday, April 9th. UConn students will participate. JGTSCA members also are encouraged to participate but they will have to sign waivers if they ride in UConn boats. After the clean up, hamburgers and hotdogs will be available at the Club house.

5. Correspondence

Richard Lathrop (Sea-Legs) sent a letter saying
"We are about to acquire a huge inventory of sails and rigging from a classic yacht of the 'P-Class" variety--a wooden yawl about 55 feet long. These sails are in VERY good condition with their own bags and covers. The other gear is also excellent and includes a 23 (approx.) ft spruce spar complete with bronze gooseneck. There are two sets of bronze winches, etc., etc. While we can't give any of this gear away, we can sell it. And our goal is to start turning it into revenue as soon as the pending transaction is complete. You may know of some projects out there that could benefit from this gear and could purchase it from Sea-Legs, Inc. It will all be very reasonably priced, of course".

For further info contact:

Sea-Legs, Inc.

19 Guthrie Place

New London, CT 06320

(860) 442-2704

(860) 912-5393

captain@virtualvoyages.net

6. 2015 Activities:

April

Business meeting Friday 3 April 5:30 Pot Luck supper

Pine Island Cleanup with UConn students Thursday 9 April (waivers to be signed)

Cache in Trash Out event Saturday 18 April

May

Business meeting Friday ? 5:30 Pot Luck supper

Membership Meeting - Avery Point Campus Boathouse

June

Business meeting and Prep for Tag Sale Friday 5:30 Pot Luck Supper

July

Business meeting and possible Sail & Row to Bluff Pt for picnic and sailing the OPHELIA

7. Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was unanimously adopted at 2:03pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Vermilya, JGTSCA Secretary

After Meeting Presentation:

Ted Stanton gave an informative and entertaining introduction to both his model of the Catboat "Breck Marshall" and to his experiences giving museum visitors rides on the boat in the Mystic River.

Ted Stanton's March 1st Program:

We had our own version of TED Talk (PBS's nonprofit devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading) when Ted Stanton visited us at our March 1st meeting to share his experiences in building a model of the Catboat Breck Marshall as well as sailing the real thing for five years at Mystic Seaport.

Hearing that our meeting also shares a pot-luck, Ted went the extra mile and baked a fresh loaf of homemade bread to share with the group which started off his talk on a friendly note.

Ted build a model of the Breck Marshall from the plans in Barry Thomas' book, "Building the Breck Marshall" making the 12 inch model a proportional replica right down to its weight. The plank on frame model includes an interior as well as staved cockpit. Ted's wife, Judy, attended as well; she passed around a beautifully sewed sail for the model, complete with traditional narrow up and down panels and edge stitching.

Ted regaled us with tales of sailing Breck in the tight confines of Mystic Seaport and the tidal Mystic River. His approach is "Management of Momentum" to maintain forward motion for steerage and decreasing momentum when coming to dock at Middle Wharf between tall ships the Morgan and Conrad. Early reefing is key if a breeze is expected (tie in a reef before leaving the dock - the end of the boom is a ways aft of the cockpit). He also shared techniques of clawing your way to windward if caught out in strong winds with full sail. The condominiums along the east side of the River are helpful as well to duck in beside to come about.

Ted also shared his experiences with his six at a time passengers. Rather than recite a standard spiel, he instead handed out a card with the answers to most of their questions: "5, 15, 22, 400 and Yes" so he was ready when they asked, "What's our draft, how deep is the water, how long is the boat, how big is the sail and does the Seaport own those houses?" That would get conversation off to a fun start as he referred them to the card for the answers.

Ted then opened the floor for us to shared Catboat experiences. Tales ranged from Phil's getting a bit wet in a twelve footer to George's knocking a seagull off a buoy with the end of a boom. A good time was had by all as we finished off Ted's loaf of bread.

Thanks to Ted and Judy for coming out on a snowy Sunday afternoon to share their Catboat experiences, both large and small. We hope to have them join us at our next outing in their Ted built "Shellback" Joel White oar and sail boat.

2015 Calendar

APRIL

Friday April 3, 5:30pm:

Business Meeting & Pot Luck

Thursday, April 9, 11am:

Pine Island Cleanup

MAY

Friday May 1, 5:30pm:

Business Meeting & Pot Luck

JUNE

Friday June 5, 5:30pm: Business Meeting & Pot Luck & Preparation for Annual Tag Sale

Saturday June 6, 8am-12 noon:

Annual Tag Sale

Friday June 26 - Sunday 28: TSCA Meet @ Wooden Boat Show

JULY

Sunday July 5: Possible picnic at Bluff Point

AUGUST

Sunday August 2, Scheduling tentative.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday September 6, 1:30pm: Business Meeting & Pot Luck

OCTOBER

Friday October 2, 5:30pm: Business Meeting & Pot Luck

NOVEMBER

Friday November 6, 5:30pm: Business Meeting & Pot Luck

DECEMBER

Sunday December 6, 1pm: Annual Banquet & Business Meeting

View from the Side Deck:

Looking out towards the Sound this chill late March morning the sun highlights the Block Island ferry as she heads upstream past the freshly painted New London lighthouse. Out past the flock of geese cruising the lawn, the flat water has a streak of bright blue, reflecting a clear patch of sky. It is trying to be Spring even though it is 20 degrees; at least the piles of a snow are mostly gone. Upside down on the deck, Dory #3 awaits its turn for a spring coat of paint and inside our Atkin skiff invites finishing.

March has been a busy month. George Spragg and Andy Strode took a day off to visit the **Cape Cod Boat Show** and pronounced it interesting and well presented. George kept a weather eye peeled for clever details to be used on his current builds.

The **Catboat Association** held its Annual Meeting in Groton: your Editor, George Spragg and Peter Vermilya attended. The keynote program was the 38th Voyage of the Charles W. Morgan which was an excellent presentation by the tag team of Dana Hewson, VP and Sr. Curator, Watercraft, who described the reconstruction and launching in words and pictures and Dan McFadden, Director of Communications who took us on the voyage in words, slides and videos. Made us proud to be affiliated with Mystic Seaport.

Then Sunday morning Marjorie O'Toole Director of the **Little Compton Historical Society** led an interesting talk about the original "Peggotty" which is the model for the Bob Baker replica recently rejuvenated at the Seaport Boathouse. The original ,after fishing, became Taggart's Ferry which carried goods and people from Taggart's landing on Sailor's Lane to Middletown. Artist Sidney Richmond Burleigh found her as an abandoned hulk which he took home to build a shed on to use as a studio from 1906-31. It was named for David Copperfield's nurse who lived in an upside down boat. In 1962 she was donated and moved to the museum and it's roof re-thatched but the rudder and keel stayed behind. In the 1980's a horse ate some of the thatch so the roof was again re-thatched and put under a shed alongside the main barn. Burleigh, a leader in the Arts and Crafts movement, just for fun made the crow weathervane; he created and painted the name.

Your Editor attended the March 28th meeting of the **Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers** as organized by Bob Andries [smallyachtsailor@gmail.com]. Preparation of the model if the tug Kingston has begun. Plans were obtained from the files of the Chief Naval Architect at Electric Boat, where she was built. Scale will be an inch to a foot so it will be a sizable 3' to 4'.

Their next meeting is May 23rd in the Campbell Room in the basement of the seaport Planetarium. Look for their in-the-water demos the third Saturday in June.

Mark your calendars for our **TSCA Meet at the WoodenBoat Show** June 26-28th. A copy of the announcement is enclosed; full information concerning logistics and to to sign up is on the Seaport website. Search for "Small Craft Workshop" or page through the events calendar. A heads up: the Seaport Library Book Sale is also planned that weekend but located on the rear loading dock at the entrance to the Small Craft Collection in the Rossie Mill.

Those of you who attended last year's meet may remember Brian Cooper's demonstration on how to hand carve a Greenland paddle; he and his wife Judy lead the **ConnYak Paddler's** group. Their schedule of events is at <http://www.connyak.org/cgi-bin/BBS.pl/> with links to their Facebook and Meet up pages. Note their excellent maps of under Popular Paddles; the Barn Island route in our back yard looks interesting. Last year at the Meet Brian lead our morning row/paddles up and down the Mystic River and he has volunteered to do it again this year; thanks, Brian!

Reminder: Our next monthly meeting is Friday, April 3rd; come early at 5:30 pm to share a pot-luck before the meeting. We are planning an outing on the Thames River on April 26th with planned launch at 10 am under the I-95 Bridge; stay tuned for details.

Fair Winds,
Bill Rutherford



Welcome Participants
John Gardner Small Craft Workshop
Brought to you by TSCA, WoodenBoat and Mystic Seaport
June 26-28, 2015

Mystic Seaport is partnering with WoodenBoat and Traditional Small Craft Association to host the John Gardner Small Craft Workshop as part of the WoodenBoat Show. Participants can both enjoy the Show and follow John Gardner's example to show that traditional small craft are a practical and economical way to enjoy the water. The Small Craft Workshop will be based on the Australia Beach where a string of floats will be provided for our use. The Workshop will include display of participant's boats, shared use of participant's boats at the discretion of the owner, demonstrations of small boat skills, morning rows on Saturday and Sunday and guided access to the Museum's boat storage area. This should be a great time to get together with like minded traditional boat folks, to share our love and knowledge of traditional small craft with others and spend some quality time with friends new and old on the beach and underway. We encourage workshop participants to volunteer to assist with one or more of these activities.

Please be sure to send in your registration form by June 19. Your registration fee includes access to the three day WoodenBoat Show.

WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

Use of Participant's Boats:

Workshop boats will be located on the beach or the floats at Australia beach to be available for use by others at the boat owner's discretion. Participants will need to oversee the use of their boats. To be consistent with the rules of the adjacent boathouse, the wearing of PFD's when boating is encouraged so please bring PFD's for yourself and your crew.

Mystic Seaport Boat House Livery:

WoodenBoat has made the Boat House Livery available for you to try out a variety of rowing and sailing craft at no charge. The Boat House rental boats will be in operation during the Workshop at no charge during the weekend so feel free to experience any or all of their beautiful collection of rowing boats. The Boat House will operate independently from the Workshop with their own rules.

Demonstrations and Workshops:

Several workshops are planned on both land and water. Participants are encouraged to attend, suggest ideas and perhaps present topics which may include rowing and feathering, sculling, rigging, reefing, anchoring, sail setting, knot tying, making hardware or outfitting for safety. The plan is to have these presentations take place on Friday at 3pm, Saturday at 11am, 1pm and 3pm and Sunday at 11am and 1pm. Contact Bill Rutherford at smallcrafter@gmail.com with ideas or to volunteer.

Morning Row:

Workshop attendees who wish to join the cruise down the Mystic River to Mason's Island or up river to Old Mystic (the direction depending on favorable wind and tide) should gather at Australia Beach at 8am on Saturday and/or Sunday. Efforts will be made to place participants who did not bring a boat a place on another attendee's boat or a JGTSCA dory.

Mystic Seaport Small Boat Collection Open House:

The Museum's Small Boat Collection which is not normally open to the public will be open each day of the Show from 2:30pm to 4:30pm. It is accessed through the loading dock doors in the rear of the Collections Building across from Latitude 41. TSCA will offer a guided tour of the Collection leaving from the TSCA Booth at Australia Beach at 3:30pm both Saturday and Sunday afternoons. A few other small boats on display may be observed on the way across the Museum campus as opportunity presents.

Saturday Night Dinner:

On Saturday night, join other WoodenBoat Show participants in the River Room at Latitude 41 for dinner. Tickets for the Tribute Dinner must be purchased in advance of the Show by calling the WoodenBoat Store at 800-273-7447 or [online at the WoodenBoat Store](#).