

# JGTSCA



## John Gardner Traditional Small Craft Association

Welcome to the John Gardner Chapter of the  
**Traditional Small Craft Association**

Visit us at the Community Boat House: Building #36 UCONN Avery Point  
1084 Shennecossett Rd, Groton, CT 06340

**Spring Maintenance on Rowing Craft**  
at UCONN Avery Point Boat house Building 36

**Next Meeting: In Person Meetings on Hold due to Covid Requirements**  
We plan a short **Zoom meeting 6:00 pm May 7th.**  
Advise Brian Cooper ([cooperbd@aol.com](mailto:cooperbd@aol.com)). All are welcome.

Local: [www.facebook.com/JGTSCA](https://www.facebook.com/JGTSCA) and <http://www.jgtsca.org>  
National: [www.TSCA.net](http://www.TSCA.net)

## News from around the Chapter

Welcome to the John Gardner Chapter of the Traditional Small Craft Association! Visit us at the Community Boathouse, Building #36, on the University of Connecticut’s Avery Point campus in Groton, CT. We invite you to attend one of our gatherings, go for a row, a sail or get involved in our next boatbuilding project.

### Update on the John Gardner Small Craft Workshop:



Memorial Day Weekend we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the first Small Craft Workshop created by John Gardner in 1970. We plan to reenact the row to the original workshop as described in Steve Jones’ book “Breakwaters” led by Steve in his refurbished original boat. We will also spend some time considering the future: solar powered boats, 3-D printing of traditional hulls and, of course, take some time to sail the harbor. On Saturday afternoon we will tour the Seaport’s Watercraft Hall which is not normally open to the public. The Boathouse Livery will be available to try out a variety of rowing and

sailing craft at no charge. All this plus our usual early morning rows and ongoing presentations.

To register, go to the Mystic Seaport website <https://www.MysticSeaport.org> . Either enter "Small Craft Workshop" in the Search box on the Seaport's Home Page or click this Link: <https://www.mysticseaport.org/events/small-craft-workshop/> which will take you to the event page at the bottom of which is a button to register.

This year we will not be a part of the WoodenBoat Show but rather be a part of the Seaport's "Jump into Summer" Memorial Day Weekend. There will be a lot going on around the Museum that weekend; they welcome our traditional craft to provide action on the River. With the additional space available we may hold an old-fashioned combination Rowing and Sailing "Versatility Race" as well as our usual morning rows and afternoon sailing activities. Hope to see you there. Brian Cooper will be leading the Workshop this year; contact him at [cooperbd@aol.com](mailto:cooperbd@aol.com) I will be assisting; reach me at [smallcrafter@gmail.com](mailto:smallcrafter@gmail.com).

Are there any original attendees out there? original boats? Please come with your old photos, friends and family and some stories to tell. We will post photos and comments electronically as well as on a real bulletin board.

A PDF of the MSM Welcome to Participants letter is transmitted with this newsletter.

### News from Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers

This just in from Bob Andrie: "Starting in May and once per month the rest of the season, we plan to meet on the usual meeting day...the second Saturday of each month. The idea is to meet for a ship model static display and R/C run on the river. Our first choice of location at the seaport will be in front of the VRC and on the floating docks below, as we did last year a number of times. The idea is to display/run boats all day, with an hour break for the regular



monthly MSSM meeting at 10 or 11 am (to be determined). This way, people can come and go as they please, and those who wish to show up for the meeting alone can easily do so, since it will be a fixed time. With a nod to covid safety this will all be held outdoors (weather permitting of course). We plan to set a rain date for the following Saturday if possible, and an alternative location at Australia Beach."

**"HERE IS A JUST COMPLETED LITTLE 11-12" PLASTIC TUG MODEL THAT SOME OF US HAVE MADE INTO R/C BOATS, SUCH AS THE LINDBERG COAST GUARD TUG, AND A REVELL KIT."**

It is a very inclusive group. If interested contact me [smallcrafter@gmail.com](mailto:smallcrafter@gmail.com) and I can put you in contact with Bob.



### **Photo of Jim Friedlander's new Sharpie:**

"Here is a picture of "Bluebird" taken today by our friend Caroll Garland. It was our second sail but the first one with friends who could take our picture. The reef was not needed but we wanted to make sure our jiffy reefing system was working properly. It did and the boat sailed well with it in. We are looking forward to cruising SE Florida once the weather warms up a bit. Bluebird is just what we hoped it would be. Come for a sail when it is safe. Until then, take care, Jim"

### **Ready for a Spring Outing?**

Join the Cape Cod Chapter as they visit nearby waters Saturday, May 1st, leaving the launch site on Quonochontaug Pond (Quonnie Bay to local Kayakers). The launch is 97 Wagner Rd., Westerly, RI 02891. Brian Cooper plans to join them. If you would like to attend as well, let Brian know (cooperbd@aol.com).

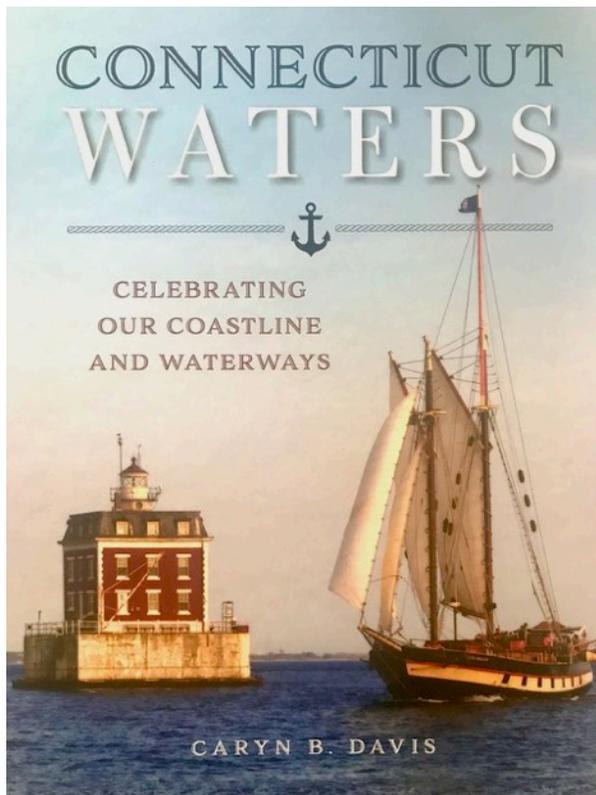
### **Remember your Dues for 2021**

\$15 to Ellie for all of JGTSCA's activities and \$25 to National to keep up our insurance and receive the "Ash Breeze". Send your local dues to the address on the top of our first page; send your national dues via "Membership" on [TSCA.net](https://www.tasca.net) .

### **Upcoming at Mystic Seaport Museum**

As of Saturday, May1st, the Museum will be open 7 days a week 10 am to 5 pm

- \* Shipyard Tour Shipyard this Friday, April 30th: see "Shenandoah" and "Roseway"
- \* Memorial Day Weekend: Our Small Craft Workshop & Boathouse Livery opens
- \* WoodenBoat Show August 20-22th
- \* August 21-22: Marine Engine Exposition



Caryn Davis' new book, "Connecticut Waters, Celebrating Our Coastline and Waterways," is out. Published by Globe Pequot of Guilford, it features her stunning photography with a narrative by Eric Lehman. Both are accomplished artists. Lehman from the Creative Writing Department of the University of Bridgeport is well published, and Davis who once honed her skills on the job for Mystic Seaport Museum, pursued a career in journalism earning a global client list and acclaimed recognition. Their complimentary talents are matched here.

Without quibbling over measurement criteria Connecticut's coastline length of 618 miles including tidal marshes ranks 21st way behind Alaska with 33,904 miles and about 70% of Connecticut shoreline is in private hands. By DEEP estimates there are more than 3000 lakes, ponds and reservoirs with about 5,800 miles of rivers and streams. It adds up to a resource potential for many hours of exploration and appreciation, and Davis' book brings life to the variety of cultural aspects associated with this resource and opportunities that await on or around these beautiful aquatic habitats.

The lack of an index may be forgiven in light of the book's other merits. Men and women of the state involved in boatbuilding and shipbuilding trades still practiced, fishing and shell fishing are featured, It's fun to turn the pages. Who's next? You'll recognize people and places and boats you know, and those you want to or have heard about. Pages 188-189 illustrate a portion of the familiar fleet some stewarded for decades and you will all recognize the "salty dog" featured on pages 114-115. It is a book to share with family and friends, each page generating a memory and opportunity to recall a visit, a sail, a paddle, or plan for the next outing to a favorite picnic site or clam bar or lighthouse. Personally there are not enough women on these pages and not enough small wooden boats, but it will inspire you to seek them out, to recognize their importance in the larger picture of Connecticut opportunities to enjoy.

Davis and Lehman must have had fun making this book which is bursting with enthusiasm and respect for the topic. Davis looked at these scenes with appreciation and it comes off the page in the composition and focus, and as small craft enthusiasts, we all have shared similar feelings, emotions of gratitude and marvel at the sheer expanse of our largesse along the coast or inland, on a river, a pond or lake. We are blessed and Davis has produced a celebratory book you can share with others, in an impossible task to explain your own fixation and thrill of being on or near the water. Check out her poem at the end of the book.

"Connecticut Waters" is the perfect souvenir for the Airbnb crowd and the retired Florida relative, ruing what they miss about Connecticut.

Davis' first book, "A Connecticut Christmas" is already a household favorite. Examples of her photography and links to her publications can be found at <https://www.carynbdavis.com>. You may have seen her work in the large format free publication, "INK Connecticut's Art, Culture, Lifestyle Magazine." They are beautifully illustrated gems covering architecture, business, and life in general. (submitted April 15, 2021 by Sharon Brown)

## The Latest at the Avery Point Community Boathouse

Monday, April 12th was Spring Cleaning Day: four guys and two vacuums made short work of it. A big thank you to those who turned out: Dan Nelson, John Hacunda, Brian Cooper and Bill Rutherford. We were finished a little after noon. Sawdust fears us.

Monday, April 19th Matt McKenzie's UCONN Maritime Studies class visited the boathouse. The students remembered the class we led last February and wanted to check back in to see what new things we were up to. It was a beautiful Spring Day. We opened all the doors, pushed the new white dory out onto the side deck and had an excellent outdoor socially distant gathering to talk traditional small boats. Your editor held forth on dories while Brian Cooper did a show & tell about two beautiful strip-built kayaks he car-topped down from home. One kayak was long, lean and hard chined; the other sleek and round bilged. We all then explored their differences and similarities.



The students all had good questions and some expressed an interest in coming back to do some hands-on building and maintenance. Matt is a great proponent of experiential learning and having built an Arch Davis "Laughing Gull", encouraged his class to get involved with hands as well as head. I quote: "Doing without thinking is just Doing; Thinking without doing is just Thinking. We need both." We look forward to hosting them again, perhaps this fall, and introduce some hands-on rowing.

### From the Side Deck

Thanks to Brian Cooper for being our Zoom Tsar. We held our first Zoom meeting 6:30 pm Friday, April 2nd, on our traditional first Friday evening meeting time. Discussions ranged from activities for Spring & Summer, Cleanup Day, UCONN Class visit, Dory work, the JG Workshop and best time to meet. Consensus was to start at 6:00 pm. We will Zoom again at 6 pm May 7th. Brian will send links. If can't connect, call him at 860-977-4951. ATB, Bill & Karen

