

# 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

**Fall Maintenance on Rowing Craft**  
at UCONN Avery Point Boat House Building 36

**Next Meeting: In Person Meetings will resume as Feasible**  
Rowing and Sailing gatherings occur during the three seasons with special programs and visits planned throughout the year. All are welcome.

Local: [www.facebook.com/JGTSCA](http://www.facebook.com/JGTSCA) and <http://www.jgtscas.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. or meet us on-line. We invite you to attend one of our gatherings, go for a row, a sail or get involved in our next boatbuilding project.

### Upcoming Events:

#### Pawcatuck River Fall Colors Row/Paddle:



Dan Nelson’s Pawcatuck River Fall Colors Row/ Paddle **Saturday, November 5th at 10 am: Meet at the Bradford Boat Launch** and row or paddle upstream 3.5 miles (or as far as you would like) in **quiet water to a broken dam just above the Burdickville Road Bridge and return through undeveloped, wooded Burlingame State Park, RI.** We are holding this a week later this year, hoping for even more vibrant fall colors. **Driving Landmarks:** 0.4 mile south of where Route 91 and Route 216 merge in the village of Bradford, look for a sign for "Bradford Landing" on the east side of the road, across from the inactive Bradford Dyeing Association.

**Email Dan for additional details and to advise if plan to attend:** [dkenelson@att.net](mailto:dkenelson@att.net) Dan suggests bringing food, drink, camera, etc. PFD’s are required this time of year. **For map of the area:** <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Bradford+Boat+Launch,+Bradford,+RI+02808/@41.4097108,-71.7350467,14z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x7e069ad6432667b6!8m2!3d41.4064301!4d-71.7482539>

## Upcoming Event:

### Avery Point Boathouse Club BBQ: Thursday, Nov 10th 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Boat club BBQ Thursday 10 November 2022 at Building 36 UConn Campus Avery Pt: Noon.  
Rain or shine

**Hamburgers and hot dogs provided.**

This is a great chance to thank the Students for their involvement, meet our Members, and share the goals of our space....say nothing of the opportunity to enjoy Ellie's "Hamburgers & Hots" (hot dogs, that is...) and meet again in person.

Please RSVP Ellie Czarnowski, Bill Rutherford at [smallcrafter@gmail.com](mailto:smallcrafter@gmail.com) or any board member or if you would like to attend.

## Boatbuilding:

### Summertime Restoration in Maine by Cookie Wierski



This summer while I was up in Brooklin, Maine working at the WoodenBoat School, I spent my days off rehabbing a delightful Chesapeake Light Craft Passagemaker with my friend Diane.

Diane was looking for a rowboat for her growing family as she is an avid rower and relishes getting out on the water. Diane and I had both attended the Carpenter's Boatshop apprenticeship program in 2017 and she was eager to get back into boat restoration after having moved into the healthcare field in recent years. I was excited for the opportunity to work with her again and to find the right project for us: one that would be cheap, relatively easy for us to complete this summer, and that we could set up for the easiest amount of ongoing seasonal maintenance for her and her family.

I put a request out on instagram to see if any of my networks of boat friends up in Maine had any leads. Arista Holden, a sailing instructor I knew through WoodenBoat, came through with just the right project. Originally named HOME JAMES, this 11'7" Passagemaker had quite a backstory. It had washed up in Port Washington, NY during a storm several years ago and suffered a good deal



of damage to its starboard sheer strake, bow, and port side rub rail. From there it had been taken to Rhode Island and repaired by a young man who used it for several years. Later, Arista received it as a gift to Atlantic Challenge USA for use as their tender during a competition in Ireland. And now it was sitting in a field, its marine plywood delaminating a bit here and there and its varnish blistering. But it was cheap, light (less than 90 lbs!) and just small enough to transport, but big enough for two adults and a few kids to enjoy.



The first order of business after scraping off several layers of paint and varnish was to address the seams, as a few had been giving way. Whereas newer CLC boats have an interlocking seam design between planks, this earlier version of the Passagemaker had seams that butted up against each other flush and were feeling the strain. We fashioned blocks to shore up the seams which helped bring it back into shape. The rub rails were beginning to split on the ends as well as along the oarlocks installation points and so care was given to fill and clamp these back into their rightful place.

The bottom interior had been fiberglassed, but not the exterior of the hull so we set about fixing weak spots and then epoxied the bottom exterior so as to give it a uniformly clean and secured finish so that ongoing seasonal maintenance would be largely limited to a new application of ablative bottom paint.

The thwarts were in rough shape, so we decided to strip them down and to apply Dek's Olje instead of

reapplying varnish. After about ten coats, the thwarts were built back up with a soft oiled finish which would also be easier to maintain versus reapplying varnish every season.

After that, it was on to painting. While we were able to secure many supplies for this project from donations from WoodenBoat school, especially with regard to the exterior paint (Interlux - Platinum, and Pettit Hydrocoat Eco Antifouling Bottom Paint - Blue) we decided to splurge on the interior paint. Given the uneven surfaces, multiple nooks and crannies, and woosily applied ancient fillets that looked lumpy and unattractive in their current state, we went for the heavy magic of Kirby paint to help us hide a world of imperfections. We had primed the interior and applied one coat of Kirby Salmon, but found that it wasn't pink enough for us and so Kirby Rose Pink was applied to achieve a vibrant, unmistakable flamingo-esque vibe. Kirby Sand was used on the rub rails to bring it all together. We finished up by re-installing two pairs of mis-matched oarlocks and called it good.



It was renamed GUTSY and relaunched in August 2022 in Orland, ME. All in all, the project took about ten weekends, just in time for Diane to use the boat this summer with her kids and partner Derrick. Diane is looking forward to carving a new nameboard for it this winter.

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Cookie Wierski (Carpenter's Boatshop Alum 2017-2018) has enjoyed working on boat restoration projects both big and small, including projects for the Hudson River Sloop *Clearwater*, West Mystic CT's *Rosalind* rebuild, and Granby, MA's *Acorn to Arabella* build. They have worked for two seasons at the WoodenBoat School, most recently as a workshop assistant in 2022. They are also the Secretary of the John Gardner Chapter of The Small Craft Association in Groton, CT.

## Chapter Activities:

### **The Narrow River Row: by Phil Behney**

Sunday October 16th was a success with just two intrepid rowers on scene. Myself and Roger Mennillo decided to row south . The destination ended up being "Dunes Club Beach" overlooking the Narragansett bay, where we landed to take in the scenery. As we headed back we took photos, I took one with Roger under the old Route 1A bridge abutment which he fondly refers to as "The Snapping Turtle Bridge" reminiscing on childhood adventures with his father. We also came across an intrepid Fly fisherman wading out close the channel. We returned to our starting point at the "Narrow River Fishing access" point off Pollock avenue, less than a five mile round trip row, very gentle indeed. I think another trip in the Spring is in order for this location since there is much more to explore and enjoy.

The Narrow River is also known as the "Pattaquamscutt River" which is an Indian name for water or "Seep". There is a lot of history here. The "Gilbert Stuart Museum" is at the beginning and an interesting visit in of itself. There is the "John Chaffee National Wildlife Refuge" at the southern end which merits a visit. The Bridge that Roger and I went under at Route 1A is known as the "Governor Sprague Bridge.

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Philip Behney is Vice President of our Chapter as well as our "Dory Master"

## Happenings at Mystic Seaport Museum:

**At the Boathouse Livery:** Volunteer PILOTS who collectively donate a day of work twice a year, once in Spring, once in Fall, moved the Livery fleet from the docks to Australia Beach, scraped and scrubbed their bottoms, then to staging areas to await being given "The Treatment" (putty & Paint) by Boathouse Volunteers working Thursdays and Saturdays over the Winter. Contact Volunteer Services and come join us; we plan some interesting activities including a bit of drawshave work as we carve some replacement oars for the fleet.

**Sargent, Whistler and Venetian Glass:** <https://www.mysticseaport.org/exhibit/sargent-whistler-and-venetian-glass/> By all means, go and see this Exhibit! Karen and I stopped by for a quick look and spent two hours and plan to go back for more. I went ready to not be impressed but came away blown away. A National level exhibit here in Mystic!

### **Other goings on:**

**[Frostbite Sailing Saturdays, November 5 - 26, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.](#)**

Frostbite sailing is a great way to keep your sailing skills active in the offseason, and late fall is a beautiful time to sail with lots of wind! Sailors will race in Dyer Dhows.

**[Member Talk: News from the Shipyard Thursday, November 17, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.](#)**

Mystic Seaport Museum's Henry B. du Pont Shipyard has been busy! Join us as our crew share highlights of past projects from this summer, as well as upcoming projects.

## Shop News from our Avery Point Community Boathouse:

by Matt McKenzie



I am happy to send along this photo of our new front stairs. Assisting in the Build were student member Adidan Davies and conscript Samuel McKenzie and Cookie Wierski—they helped with the joisting and framing on Friday. I’m pretty happy. Next we tackle the windows. The Board approved starting with the front window with the goal of finishing it before the Student/Member BBQ.

**And on to this installment of the Shop News:** Arabella work is done and dusted; shop and dories being used as educational spaces and pending builds.

### Arabella:

Cookie informs shop management that the Arabella work is done and dusted. The shop thanks them for sharing their expertise with JGTSCA club members and students alike.

### Education:

September 27th, the JGTSCA dories hosted Alexis Dudden’s senior history seminar at the Avery Point beach. Twenty four UCONN students, most with no prior exposure to rowing, experienced for the first time the vicissitudes of the sea on a clear, warm, and calm afternoon. Despite the steep learning curve (and culturally consistent minimal on shore training) these kids got a good taste of “Swamp Yankee tricycles”—i.e. small boats. Smiles abounded, no one dumped the boat, and a few took an interest in the shop itself after their time on the water.



Following on that event, AP Waterfront Director (and strong ally of the JGTSCA) **Prescott Littlefield sent his sailing class out into the dories on a day with not a breath of wind.** Again, none of these students had prior rowing experience, but all came off with new understandings of the water and how it affects vessels.

**In late October, UCONN's Maritime Studies program hosted their annual Early College Experience teacher training sessions at Avery Point.** This year, the club dories will play a prominent role in exploring how doing something allows one to better analyze others who have done the same thing in the past. **Teachers will be asked to respond to Winslow Homer's "Fog Warning" in the classroom; then be tossed into the dories for an hour; and then asked what new perspectives arose** after having rowed a dory similar to the one in the painting. Results will be presented in a Pecha Kucha sessions at the Teaching With Small Boats Alliance annual meeting in early November.

### **Looming Builds:**

As for the shop proper, Ian Bradley is exploring sailing canoe yawl plans with an eye towards beginning his this fall or winter. Beginning on July 1, Dan Nelson will begin his build, a tender for his big boat. Finally, after a semester in Florence, UCONN student Aiden Davies wants to build a dory of some flavor in conjunction, perhaps, with an independent study. With the shop done and dusted, **there is still room for another build** if necessary should there be a need from among our community.

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Matt McKenzie is Professor of Maritime Studies at UCONN Avery Point and our Shop Manager. Remember his "Shop Time Hours" for students & members Tuesdays & Thursdays 2 pm-4pm

### **From the Mailbag:**

**Steve Jones** forwards to us a very complete video of the "Rosalind of St. Ives" shutter plank installation and celebration. Makes you feel like you were there in the boat shed when it happened: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jXIYKxHaOstqaRyZkPLLjtLdlgq6gWxl/view?usp=drive\\_web&usp=embed\\_facebook&usp=embed\\_facebook&usp=embed\\_facebook&usp=embed\\_facebook](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jXIYKxHaOstqaRyZkPLLjtLdlgq6gWxl/view?usp=drive_web&usp=embed_facebook&usp=embed_facebook&usp=embed_facebook&usp=embed_facebook)

Steve goes on to explain in his succinct, text message style: "WhiskeyBoard Slideshow with Enya .mp4 - Taken last Sat @ West Mystic Woodenboat Co. whiskey plank "Rosalind of St Ives" Andrew Guest Builder & Owner, Deborah Thompson, photos.

Saw your work in "Ash Breeze". Good job. The Flat Hammock Press edition of the 50 Anniversary of TSCA is still in the works! Our production man got taken away on a government project on Asian Rim!

BTW, Schooner "Aleive" captain Geoffrey Jones in from Fiji, appreciated the caption on the perfect furls.

They had one stretch of 108 days @ sea. Most of the 3 years they spent cruising New Zealand North Island. His experience began with John Gardner's first boat building class at Mystic Seaport."

## Advertisements:

### Boats Seeking Good Homes:

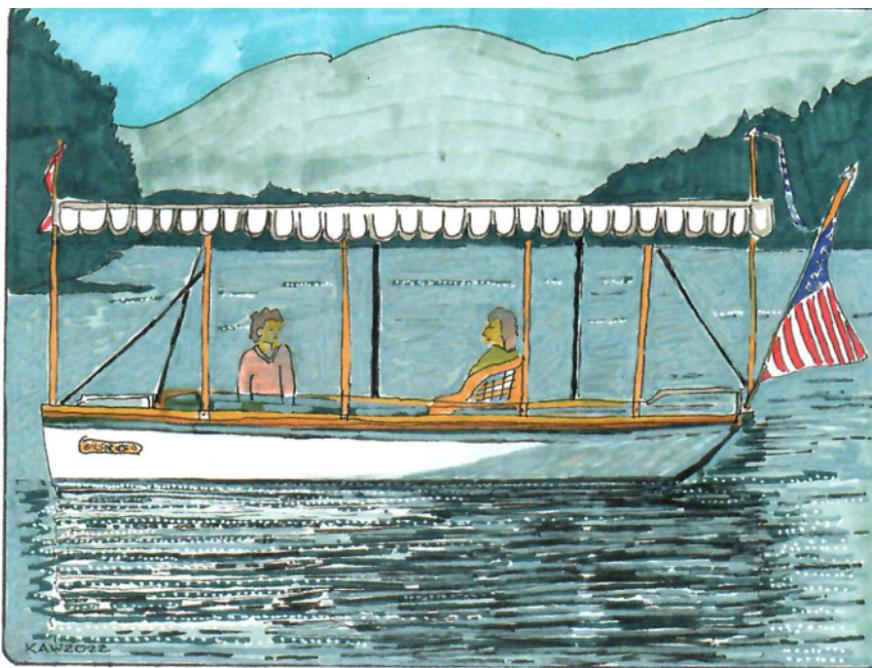
- 10 ft Feathercraft Angler Kayak w/ paddle and cockpit cover. The security of a decked kayak with a shorter boat's maneuverability. Plus multiple molded-in rod holders for fishing. Perfect for Saturday's Fall Colors Pawcatuck River run; come by, pick it up and try it out!
- A Rob Pittaway light weight skin on frame double paddle canoe. End of season special deal! Borrow and tryout on Fall Colors Row! If interested, email me, Bill Rutherford at [smallcrafter@gmail.com](mailto:smallcrafter@gmail.com)

### Quotes:

"Here in Australia we build two boats and sand them back to one." Mark Lo Schiavo

"90 percent of boatbuilding is clamping; the other 90 percent is sanding." Eric Blake, BBY

### This Month's Artwork: by Kate Wells



ELCO Electric Launch Company, Inc.

**View from the Side Deck:** Hope to see you at Saturday's Fall Colors Row and next Thursday's BBQ at the Boathouse. Thank you for all your contributions; keep them coming. Send us some photos and a few words about what you've been up to this summer. And for next summer, be thinking: Matt McKenzie is interested in organizing a two to three day Camp Cruise where people either sleep aboard their boats or at waterside campgrounds/5 Star Resorts. Reach out to Matt if interested: [matthew.mckenzie@uconn.edu](mailto:matthew.mckenzie@uconn.edu)

All The Best, Bill & Karen

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