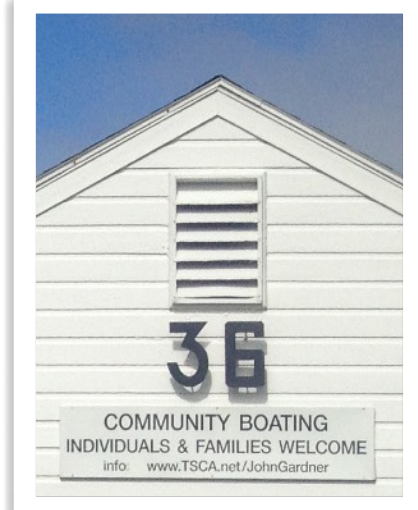


JGTSCA



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

Historic Dory Rehab as well as planned New Builds of Oar & Sail Craft
at UCONN Avery Point Boat House Building 36

Next Meeting: In Person Meetings as Opportunities Arise
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 and <http://www.jgtsca.org>

National: www.TSCA.net

Historic Dory Rehab Underway:

by Matt McKenzie and Aidan Davies



This from Matt March 21st: Hi Bill: As you know, my student Aidan and I have been working on a Nahant dory since last fall. Alas, spring break forced us to consider whether it was realistic

for us to finish this term or not. And sadly, due to my lack of skill and ability, we have to confront the possibility that we will not be able to finish.

While we have always acknowledged that the build was as much about process as product, Aidan has worked like a mule on this boat, and it breaks my heart to think he won't have a boat at the end of it all.

To that end, I am wondering if our community might have a dory looking for a good home, ideally one that is in need of a little work to give it a lot of life.

Aidan, I feel, has his heart set on a dory for its rowing and fishing capabilities, and he has no interest in motors, and seems cool on sails. He just wants to row and fish, mostly out of Stonington.

Thank you and I hope we can provide a dory a good home with a good kid who has worked hard. Thanks, Matt

A mere eight days later they found one: Matt reported: "Well, there comes a time when one must fish or cut bait. And this spring, after a wondrously rich learning experience working on Aidan's Nahant dory—experiences long in insights but short on progress—and after hanging the garboard planks about eight times, Aidan and I decided to cut bait. If anyone is looking for

an earnestly built floor-stem-transom-and frame assembly for a Nahant dory, there is one behind the shop.

"We did learn much, as was the intention from day one. Indeed, along with "the blind leading the ignorant—and we don't know who's who," the project motto was also "it's about process, not product." So, while there is no boat to show for our efforts, they were not in vain: on many levels, I see the Nahant dory project as a success. And in the coming months, look in among scholarly and non-scholarly literature for series of papers discussing this project.

I believe, however, that a shop runs along a moral as well as financial and contractual lines, and in this sense, it did not strike me as right and proper for no boat to show for our efforts. Last week, Bill as kind enough to put out word to our community seeking

boats needing good homes. Thank you to all who responded to that. I hope to have more new members joining us looking for boats in the future, so you may see those calls again."



"In the meantime, however, I am pleased to announce that Aidan does have a hum-dinger of a dory to show for his efforts. Prescott Littlefield, UCONN Avery Point Waterfront Program Director, was looking for rehome home for his 15'10" Swampscott dory with someone willing to provide, a la White Dory a couple years ago, "a little putty and paint to make what she ain't." And so, after a white-knuckle, "God I hope this trailer is as sound as I think" drive from Lyme, Chapter members will see Aidan's dory in the process of rehab and rejuvenation.

Some details that we think makes this a unique and important boat: first, she was built at Lowell's boat shop in 1970—at least the maker plate and the documentation show her to be a Lowell-built boat. Prescott also says that it was built, at least in part, by John Gardner himself, and made out of mahogany. That, along with how well Prescott cared for her, explains why she needs so little work to get her swimming again.

All these aspects makes this project all the more fitting for our shop, so I hope folks will swing by and take a look. If you do, please bring at least dust masks: with the 1970 build date, we're assuming it's was finished with lead paint, so I want folks to be protected while we scrape and sand."



So, let's jump in and give Aidan a hand. Matt's Office Hours are 11:30 - 2pm Tuesday and Thursday and our Community Boathouse Shop Hours are 5pm - 7pm Fridays. Come help Aidan spiff up his new dory. It's only 53 years old but does need some work...mostly details, the wood is

sound but there are spots, trim pieces...nothing some putty and a couple fresh coats of paint can't fix. Let's get it ready for our first Spring Row!

Upcoming Events:

- **A Spring Row:** Contact Brian Cooper at www.cooperbd@aol.com to set up a row and add it to our website's upcoming events.
- **Earth Day Celebration:** Community Boathouse Building 36 Open House **Noon to 2 pm Wednesday, April 19th** in conjunction with UCONN Avery Point's Eco Husky EcoHusky Club's annual Earth Day Celebration. Ellie plans Pizza and drinks...
- **The 40th Annual Northeast Joint Club Ship Model Conference and Show:** This will be held in the **Port" N" Starboard Center, at Ocean Beach, New London. Saturday April 29th from 0900 to 1600**
- **"Student Shop Hours"** at UCONN AP Boathouse Tuesdays and Thursdays during this Spring Semester **Starts will be at 11:30 am or so**, a bit sooner than last year and go to 2 pm. **Email Matt McKenzie** matthew.mckenzie@uconn.edu to confirm no school activities conflicts. Come by and support Students as they explore Traditional Small Craft.
- **"Friday Night Work/Community Sessions"** at our UCONN Avery Point Community Boathouse **Fridays 5 pm to 7 pm:** Come and assist Aiden in his Historic Dory Rehab project and check out ongoing new builds.
- **CLC's Big Little Boat Festival on the beautiful Chester River! Free and family-friendly.** CLC boat demos, technical seminars, cardboard boat races, more. Camping available, too. **Location:** 500 Conquest Beach Rd, **Centreville, Maryland; Date:** Saturday, May 13, 2023
- **Mystic Seaport Workshops and Presentations:** Visit the Seaport Museum Calendar page to sign up <https://www.mysticseaport.org/calendar/> including our own **John Gardner Small Craft Workshop June 23-25, 2023** to be held in conjunction with **the WoodenBoat Show** (more info below).
- **Mystic Seaport Antique and Classic Boat Rendezvous July 22-23, 2023**
- **59th Annual Antique Boat Show & Auction August 4-6, 2023, Antique Boat Museum, Clayton, NY** www.abm.org Speaker's Forums with Evelyn Ansel, Douglas Brooks, Benson Gray. Bronze Casting demonstrations. Celebrating 125 years of Old Town Canoe Company, 145 years of Herreshoff designs.

A Little Local Knowledge:

I've been saving this one for a while...some inside information on transiting the mighty Pawcatuck River gathered while chatting with Officer Lamb, Westerly Police Officer, at Branford Boat Launch while he watched for speeders after our fleet departed on our Fall Row. He recommended departing from Potter Hill Dam near Maxson St. in Ashaway to travel downstream with takeout at the ramp behind O'Brien's Pub in Pawcatuck. He said the route went through some beautiful farmland.

I would have asked for more specifics, but right then he took off in pursuit of a speeder...

If someone would like to try this stretch and give us a review, we'll pass it on...I like the part about ending at O'Brien's...

Visitors from A-far:

Doug Oeller and Friends paid us a visit last weekend. Doug is a member of National TSCA's ruling Council from down near Washington, DC. He sailed "Comfort", his Joel White Marsh Cat. Friend Mike Wick, a JGTSCA Member now residing in "nearby" Concord, Massachusetts, sailed his 16' Bartow Melonseed. Friend Bill Covert, a converted canoe sailor also sailed a Marsh Cat, I think (he was a ways away on the other side of the Harbor). All launched at Barn Island Thursday morning, amazed by the warm weather (it hit 70 degrees).

A broken gooseneck bolt brought "Comfort" in to the dinghy dock in Stonington Harbor. We located one of exact size (sorry, Doug, not bronze, but stainless steel - will replace later..).

Close inspection of Doug's setup validates the name "Comfort" - look at those cushions with backrests, yet! And still enough room for three to four days worth of gear and room to crawl under a boom tent to sleep. Those Chesapeake Bay guys know how to cruise!



First night they were south of Barn Island.

Next morning they were hailed by our Phil Behney who was out rowing. Small World!

Mike Wick's report: "We had a great cruise; Doug was pleased with his repair and most grateful for your help. Yesterday was a real Smokey Souwester or maybe Soueaster, coming back from Mason's, but compass and GPS and VHF all were handy. While we were gone, they delivered the porta potties at the ramp; in the nick of time. Water temperature now almost fifty, and that means I feel safer. It's my favorite cruising ground. Mike"

Mystic Seaport Boat Livery:

As we cruise into April we look to wrap up Winter Maintenance by the end of the month. Next we concentrate on getting ready for Summer Operations. Small Boat Handling and Shop Work with Williams-Mystic Students culminate in a celebration and a chance for all to go for a row. With that in mind, a goodly portion of our rowing fleet was launched last Thursday and the first two sailing boats, a pair of Beetle Cats, are at the ready on the lawn just above Australia Beach. That freed us up to dive back in to some maintenance projects.

A goal, dare we commit, is to have four rowing/sailing dories ready for the WoodenBoat Show/ SmallCraft Workshop for visitors to compare. Some work remains.... "Morsel" a 14 ft. Gardner rowing/sailing dory needs her centerboard case repaired/reinstalled; "Mimi", a 10' Chamberlain dory tender needs a bit of refastening and her false stem prepared/installed; "Alpha", a 21 ft. Beechcomber/Alpha Dory, an early 20th century racer, needs putty, paint and a re-rig of her steering system; "Dion" a 17 ft. rowing/sailing Swampscott by Fred Dion, thank goodness, is already in the water, ready to row but gets a new lug rig this year. No rest for the weary...



LEFT: "HANDS ON", THEN "LIFT" AS CULLER WORK SKIFF "SKYE" HEADS FOR THE WATER

RIGHT: FALSE STEM FOR "MIMI" COMES FROM THE IMPROVISED STEAM BOX AND IS CLAMPED TO PREPARED BENDING FORM

LEFT: VOLUNTEERS (L TO R) JOE DEGRANGE, JOE WILLIAMS, MATTHEW STUART, STEVE TELSEY, BRIAN COOPER, JOHN MALMROS AND BOATHOUSE SUPERVISOR NICK PARKER
RIGHT: (L TO R) VOLUNTEERS CLIFF SCORSO, STEVE TELSEY, AND JON STODDARD WITH SUPERVISOR NICK PARKER

FAR LEFT: VOLUNTEER KAREN RUTHERFORD APPLIES NAMES



The 2023 John Gardner Small Craft Workshop

Come one, come all to celebrate Traditional Small Craft in the place where it was born! Mystic Seaport Museum, WoodenBoat and the John Gardner Chapter of the TSCA are joining forces to sponsor the best ever small boat gathering. The Seaport Boathouse Livery will be available to all at no extra charge. Go try out working replicas of the original small craft from the Museum's Small Craft Collection. **To celebrate breaking ground on the new Small Craft Hall, we will be honoring replicas of the originals.** If you have one at home, bring it and share its story. If yours is in the tradition of the original, say of more modern materials, but honors the essence of the original, that is OK, even encouraged in this age of trailer sailing and garage storage.

The John Gardner Small Craft Workshop will again be held during The WoodenBoat Show at Mystic Seaport Museum, on Friday to Sunday June 23 – 25 from 9am to 5pm, hosted by the Traditional Small Craft Association's John Gardner Chapter

In addition to having a booth to acquaint show attendees with the TSCA, there will also be **demonstrations of skills** that enhance the traditional small boat experience. Mystic Seaport **Boathouse craft will also be available at no charge** for participants to use. We are hoping for a continuous back drop to the Show of traditional small craft in action on the river.

All TSCA members are encouraged to **attend with or without your own boat!** There is plenty to do if you don't bring your own vessel. Launching and parking details will be posted with registration materials.

At 8 am on Saturday and Sunday morning before Museum hours, there will be a cruise in-company open to all workshop attendees. We will gather at the Australia Beach and



cruise either up river past the highway bridge to the beautiful salt marshes or down river past the Village and classic yachts on their moorings. Come 4:30 pm we'll go for an afternoon sail.

Workshop participants can register to stay onboard the Joseph Conrad Friday and Saturday nights. .

Attendees will be encouraged to help with the workshop, either by staffing the booth at Australia Beach for a 2 hour period and/or giving a demonstration of some skill such as sail rigging, sculling, boat building, hardware making, etc. **If you have a skill that you would like to demonstrate at the show please volunteer.** Demonstrations should last about 30 minutes and will be held mornings and early afternoons each day.

Registration for the Small Craft Workshop also allows you admission to the WoodenBoat Show for all three days at no additional cost.

Registration information is posted: see <https://www.mysticseaport.org/calendar/> and click ahead to June, go to the 23rd, scroll down and click on the "John Gardner Small Craft Workshop" bar, expand the Event Details to read all about it and then click on the big blue button to advance to the Registration Page.

Indicate your interest in staffing the booth or demonstrating a skill on the registration form or **contact Bill Rutherford** at smallcrafter@gmail.com or 860-222-5249. If any questions, concerns or comments, let us know. We look forward to seeing you there!

Update from National:

See the latest "Ash Breeze" for **an excellent article by Editor Andy Wolfe about longtime Chapter Member Dave McCulloch and his boats.** Dave seems to be ready to part with some of his boats. Having seen them in person I can attest to their beauty, functionality and fine workmanship. Andy also manages our National TSCA website. He has listed many of the boats on the "Boats for Sale" webpage <https://tsca.net/find-your-boat/> They are being managed by Rich Shriver of Estuary Magazine fame (another fine magazine if you have not seen it, all about the Connecticut River Valley). Contact Rich Shriver 860-240-9146 or rshriver@kingfishermarine.net **A fine example is Dave's custom Marsh Cat with cuddy and tabernacle mast.** <https://tsca.net/custom-marsh-cat/> .

Another good reason to join National TSCA. Not only a fine magazine but also fine Website...

Mystic Seaport Museum Activities:

Visit the Seaport Museum Calendar page <https://www.mysticseaport.org/calendar/>

- April 16-22 - Volunteer Appreciation Week - 9 am Wed & Fri Coffee w/ Staff at Anchor Cafe
- April 21 - 22 - Adventure Series: David Shiffman: Why Sharks Matter – A Deep Dive With The World's Most Misunderstood Predator (Two Day Event)
- May 18th 1:30 pm - 2:30pm - *All Hands On Deck*: A Book Talk with Will Sofrin: Come hear Will Sofrin as he recounts **the unforgettable voyage sailing the ROSE from Newport, RI to Hollywood, CA for the filming of Master & Commander: The Far Side of the World**. Sofrin will invite us behind-the-scenes of his newly released book "All Hands on Deck: A Modern-Day High Seas Adventure to the Far Side of the World" by sharing film footage, photographs, and first-hand experiences from the voyage.
- May 27 - Opening of Alexis Rockman Exhibit: *Oceanus*
- June 23-25 - WoodenBoat Show and John Gardner Small Craft Workshop

Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers:

Bob Andrie and Gene McNatt reported two very successful shows:

- **The Tugboat Show:** over 510 people visited the Masin Room (the meeting room waterside in the new North Entrance Building). Forty-seven (47) models were on display for the entire show. The Show was entirely staffed by MSSM Members. Jim Delaney's fire boat *Duwamish* was voted favorite Boat.
- **The Train Show:** many visitors and staff viewed two sections of the Narragansett Bay RR & Navigation Co. exhibit in the John Gardner Boat Shop Annex the first and second weekends in April. Andy Small & Justin Maguire presented this very detailed Narrow Gauge RR and Waterfront Shipbuilding Model of the 1920's which was elevated for easier viewing.

MSSM moved back into the Shop area of the JG Boat Shop April 15th. They plan to be ready for the public by May 1st. If you are a member and would like to display a model this summer let Bob or Ed know by email or in person which will assist in room and model layout.

Bob gave a quick update on the Watercraft Hall work: The Seaport continues to clear and move materials out of the Mill building. Construction is ongoing with wall removals and preparations for work on the building's roof.

MSSM's next meeting will be on Saturday, May 13th in the JG Small Boat Shop in the display area and outside the rear doors. Come join this very active group.

A Couple Quotes:

- When Bob Baker was asked that if he was allowed only one power tool in his boatshop his answer was: "a vacuum cleaner".
- "Of the 10 ways to do something, 5 will work." Peter Vermilya

Remember your Dues for 2023:

\$15 to Ellie Czarnowski for LOCAL CHAPTER JOHN GARDNER TSCA dues: Join and Renew with the form from www.JGTSCA.org and Mail your check to the following:

JGTSCA Treasurer

Community Boat Building #36

UCONN Avery Point Campus

1084 Shennecossett Road, Groton, CT 06340

\$25 for NATIONAL TSCA MEMBERSHIP (remember, they pay our event Insurance and mail us the magazine the “Ash Breeze”). Join and Renew Online at www.tsca.net and receive a copy of the “Ash Breeze”.

Support National TSCA - They Support Us...

So, what DOES the national TSCA do?

Great question! **John Weiss, Membership Coordinator** writes: “Primarily, we provide a center point for organizing local small-craft clubs and organizations and providing them with a national identity. **The community we represent is small by any measure, and without a national identity the various local groups would likely drift into isolation rather than provide mutual support.** I believe our relative influence in the small-boat community will become increasingly important as large museums like Mystic Seaport and other commercial organizations are less willing and able to provide financial support to small-craft programs.

The **TSCA offers organized, INSURED on-the-water boating activities for members and their guests.** We have contracted with The Gowrie Group for event liability insurance for all TSCA chapter activities. As part of that effort, we have become organizational members of US Sailing, through which the Gowrie Group offers this exclusive, affordable insurance. While the cost is a significant part of our dues— approximately \$5 per member per year, it has not caused any dues increase to date.

As a recognized non-profit educational organization, **TSCA provides local chapters with the IRS 501(c)(3) “umbrella” to keep the taxman at bay when it comes to donations and dues.** Because of the diversity of chapters, (some have their own non-profit umbrellas) it has been VERY important in supporting the community-focused efforts where prospective donors want the tax deduction for their donations, and at least incidental in other chapters.

Visibility of the national organization is provided to our members via TSCA.net, Facebook and our quarterly journal, The Ash Breeze, published by volunteers from material sent in by our membership and friends. Our editors have ALWAYS kept the members’ voice in submitted articles, supporting our “member driven” philosophy.

TSCA.net provides a national calendar of events and Chapter Pages, maintained by chapter webmasters without interference from the national organization. Our Facebook page and Yahoo Groups forums provide a wide range of membership knowledge and experience.

The TSCA is and has always been a TOTALLY volunteer-staffed and member-driven organization. We have NO paid staff. The officers and Council who do all the grunt work in

membership fulfillment, magazine publishing, and Gardner Grant reviews are unpaid and still pay their regular dues to boot! Since it is a volunteer-staffed organization, we are limited by the willingness of our members to do all the required work and any other perceived, desired or “needed” work.

As long as I have been in **TSCA, the national organization has left local governance to the individual chapters**, and has not tried to direct them in how to develop or administer their programs. **As a result, the chapters are very diversified**, ranging from informal, messabout-only chapters like Puget Sound and Oregon Coots, to those with significant local youth-development and community-boat-building projects like the John Gardner and Crystal River, to those closely associated with larger organizations like Buffalo Maritime Center and Michigan Maritime Museum.

Our website (and our link exchanges with other similar organizations) brings in MANY questions from people outside TSCA, who are potential TSCA members. I field phone calls from around the country and e-mail inquiries from around the world on a weekly basis. A significant number of them come from our link on the ACBS (Antique & Classic Boat Society, the powerboaters’ analog to TSCA) website. Apparently it is easier to get good and timely information from TSCA members than from the MUCH larger ACBS membership! I redirect most of those inquiries to other TSCA members via the forums and/or e-mail. I cannot remember a single inquiry in 15+ years about some little-known boat (including some classic powerboats) that has not brought at least one valuable piece of information to the requester via TSCA.

TSCA was born in response to concerns over adverse legislative proposals in the 1970s that would have effectively legislated homebuilt boats out of existence. Our IRS 501(c)(3) status makes it difficult to do any overt lobbying, but our members have been able to respond to several local legislative challenges on the chapter level. **Among our relationships with other organizations is a Cooperative Agreement with Boat/US**, the national boating lobby. That agreement **gives our members a 50% reduction in Boat/US dues** (simply cite Cooperating Group #GA84393B in your application/renewal) and access to several services such as their speakers’ bureau, which can be useful for chapter meetings.

Last, but certainly not least, **we administer the John Gardner Fund which grants money to [usually] smaller organizations and individuals for small-boat projects, who might not otherwise be able to get funding for projects of historical significance and/or community value.** Our grant money is only limited by the willingness and ability of our members and friends to donate to the Gardner Grant Fund (professionally, independently, and efficiently administered by the Maine Community Foundation); and the ability of grant requesters to present a reasonable case for their projects.

I hope this answers the question for you and for people you know. If not, **just ask us, and we can provide more detail.”**

Thank you John, for complete and compelling reasons to be a National Member. Locally, Peter Vermilya has been a national Council Member as well as Secretary, as am I currently. Reach out with questions, concerns, comments. Bill Rutherford smallcrafter@gmail.com

A No-Math Saw Set-up:

So you want to make a new sprit boom or handle for a boathook...First step will be to go from Square to Hexagonal: You figure sawing off the corners first will save a lot of work. How do you correctly position the saw's fence? Try this: Unplug the saw and tilt the blade 45°. On a left-tilt saw, move the fence well to the right, away from the blade. On a right-tilt saw, remove the fence and put it on the left side of the blade. Next, lean the square piece against the blade. Then move the fence to touch the square piece's opposite corner (left). Remove the piece, plug in the saw, place the square piece flat on the table and rip each corner (right). Saves a lot of 8th grade geometry....Thanks to Tom Caspar in a back issue of Popular Woodworking.



Art Corner: Russ Junishian's latest:



Have some fun with this one: Note that the salty old Crows are looking in all directions except at the Schooner straight ahead... **“The Crow's Nest” by ED PARKER** (b. 1946) oil on board 16" x 16" \$7,500 is a part of a series of paintings inspired by nautical terms and sailor's slang, the origins of which are often obscure. According to a popular naval legend, **the term derives from the practice of Viking sailors, who carried crows or ravens in a cage secured to the top of the mast.** In cases of poor visibility, a crow was released, and the navigator plotted a course corresponding to the bird's flight path because the bird invariably headed "as the crow flies" towards the nearest land. See Russ' wonderful new paintings at [New Art at the J. Russell Junishian Gallery](#). Visit his Gallery at 52 Water Street, Stonington, CT.

That's it for this Issue, folks: Keep those fun photos and cryptic notes coming our way! Share your first Spring Rows, Walks in the Woods and what your boat looks like fresh out of the Shop! Hope to see you at one of our upcoming events. Bill & Karen Rutherford Email us at smallcrafter@gmail.com