

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

New Dory Rehab as well as New Boat Construction in June
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.jgtsc.org>
National: 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.

Upcoming Events:

Our Chapter's signature event, the **John Gardner Small Craft Workshop**, will again be held concurrently with the WoodenBoat Show the weekend of June 23rd thru 25th at Mystic Seaport Museum. This is an important event for us and will require involvement and assistance from all our members. Go to [John Gardner Small Craft Workshop at Mystic Seaport](#) to view the Seaport's webpage for this event. Note the myriad activities underway at Australia Beach (next page): Our TSCA booth, Chesapeake Light Craft customers trying out boats and the Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers running radio controlled models. It is a fun, busy place. Press the button at the bottom of that page, sign up and plan to attend!

Signing up for the JG Small Craft Workshop gives you access to all three days of **The WoodenBoat Show**, including the Speakers Series In the Masin Room at the North Entrance and Skills Demonstrations at the Henry B. du Pont Shipyard. Go to

[The WoodenBoat Show at Mystic Seaport Museum](#) to view WoodenBoat's webpage for their event. In addition to the beautiful big boats, some meticulously maintained by local Tommy Townsend, visit the ones more our size in the medium to small boats group right opposite the southern entrance. Often you will find the builders aboard. And don't miss Chesapeake Light Craft's in-depth exhibit of old favorites as well as new additions. **Late breaking news: The Speaker's Series list is out! Included is our Evelyn Ansel, Ben Fuller and David Cockey and Walt Ansel.** View their topics and times at [The WoodenBoat Show Speaker Series](#) . We will make sure our activities will not to conflict.



EVENT DETAILS

The John Gardner Small Craft Workshop will again be held during The WoodenBoat Show 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. Registration will allow participant's access to Australia Beach to launch and retrieve their vessels before and after hours. Launching and parking details will be posted with registration materials.

At 8 am on Saturday and Sunday mornings, 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 classic yachts on their moorings.

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 are held on an ad hoc schedule this year, posted in advance at the TSCA Booth at Australia Beach.

Registration for the Small Craft Workshop also allows you admission to the WoodenBoat Show for all three days at no additional cost. Registration for Museum Members is \$20 per adult and \$10 per child (4-17) and helps to support the event. Registration for non-members is \$40 for adults and \$20 for children (4-17). Additionally, Workshop participants can register to stay onboard the Joseph Conrad Friday and Saturday nights for a fee of \$20 per person per night.

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.

How to Register (the “Cliff Notes” Version):

Registration information is now posted on-line: 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**. Not to worry, although you are only at the 23rd, when you register it will be one (daily) cost which includes all three days. The Registration page, in case you loose it, is [Registration Page to JG SCW at Mystic Seaport](#)

How to Register (the Detailed Version):

Just in case you get lost along the way...like I did, **here is a more detailed road map:**

Again, **scroll down to June 23rd and click on the “John Gardner Small Craft Workshop and click its little square box and then hit “Next”**. That will take you to a page where you have the opportunity to create a log-in and password. If you already have one. type in your log-in and then, if your computer is like mine, override the suggested password and type in your usual Seaport password. The Computer Gods willing, you will next see the Adult Program page for the Workshop with an outline of activities, including the choices of prices. **Museum members are \$20 for all three days; even though they can enter the gate for free all weekend, paying is encouraged to help support the extra costs for the Workshop (extra docks, etc.), plus the wristband gets you in both before and after hours to launch/retrieve boats, etc.** The Non-Museum member rate is \$40, again for all three days, (a savings over the WoodenBoat Show fees).

After checking the requisite boxes **hit “Next”** at the bottom of the page **to move to the Attendee Name page**. Once you have named yourself and your guests to your preference, click the red Next button which takes you to a page which gives you the opportunity **read and agree to the Statement of Responsibility**. Assuming you agree, click its little box and hit the big red Next button below it to **move on to the Payment Cart page**. Review your costs, confirm your credit card address (auto copy from your profile, if you would like - click the box), update your email if you would like, read and understand the Terms and Conditions of the purchase (all sales are final), click its box **then click the big red Proceed to Payment button**. Note that you have 10 minutes to do so before the system times out. A helpful countdown timer is included.

After Payment it takes you to a Receipt and Tickets page. Click the **Download Your Receipt to print your receipt.** When you click Print Your Tickets you will not see your tickets; there are none. **Visitor Services will very shortly send you an email with Receipt Details, Booking Details (including a barcode), a JotForm to fill out (folks in your group, boat you're bringing and if interested in helping) and your Letter to Participants.** The latter two will come as PDF icons; click on those to see the documents.

We will have your name on a list at the South Gate Entrance so you can receive your wrist bands for access all weekend. **We will be at the South Gate Friday afternoon and Saturday Morning.** If we are not there when you arrive and you have a problem, **give us a call [860-222-5249](tel:860-222-5249)** and we'll come get you. **The Letter to Participants as in years past has launching info, trailer parking and optional lodging on the Joseph Conrad.** Assuming you have a Tech Rep or Teenager handy, the above should not be too difficult. We really do look forward to your arrival. **If questions, comments, concerns, reach out to Bill Rutherford [860-222-5249](tel:860-222-5249) or email smallcrafter@gmail.com.** See you at the Workshop.

Letter to Participants:

In case you would like to see what you are getting into before going through all the above, here is an advance copy of the Letter to Participants:

Welcome Participants John Gardner Small Craft Workshop June 23-25, 2023

Brought to you by TSCA, WoodenBoat and Mystic Seaport Museum

Mystic Seaport Museum 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 and demonstrations of small boat skills and morning rows on Saturday and Sunday. 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.

WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

Questions, please contact Bill Rutherford at smallcrafter@gmail.com

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 Boat House, the wearing of PFD's when boating is encouraged so please bring PFD's for yourself and your crew.

Mystic Seaport Museum Boat House Livery:

The Boat House sailing and rowing boats will be in operation during the Workshop at no charge. The Boat House will operate independently from the Workshop with their own rules.

Demonstrations and Workshops:

Demonstrations for 2023 are going to be ad hoc. Please visit the TSCA table at Australia Beach for daily schedules. Additionally, participants are encouraged to attend any of the [various talks in the Masin Room](#) and [demonstrations down in the Shipyard](#). For more information on what is scheduled, please refer to The WoodenBoat Show website or the links above. If you would like to lead a demonstration or workshop for this event, please email Bill Rutherford.

Get out on the Water Together:

Join us for a morning row departing from the Australia Beach at 8am on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Efforts will be made to place workshop participants who did not bring a boat a place on another attendee's boat or a JGTSCA dory. Additionally, at 4pm on Saturday, we will set out for an afternoon sail together.

Mystic Seaport Museum Watercraft Collection Open House:

Due to construction taking place for the renovations for the Watercraft Hall, there will be no open house during the weekend this year. There will be a presentation by Museum staff talking about the project scheduled for Saturday. More information will be available at check in.

Saturday Night Potluck Dinner:

An offsite potluck dinner will be organized for participants. Details will be provided at the event.

WORKSHOP LOGISTICS

Questions, please contact Sarah Clement at sarah.clement@mysticseaport.org

Check in:

Check in at the WoodenBoat Credentials Booth on ***Friday and Saturday between 7:00am and 12:00pm both days***. This is located near the big anchor in the courtyard of the South entrance to the Museum. You will receive a wristband that will give you access to the museum grounds for the weekend. From there, proceed to the TSCA booth at the Australia Beach. If you are bringing a boat see the "Load in and out of boats" section below for times and access. *If you arrive outside of those times, please contact Bill Rutherford.*

Load in and out of Boats:

(Be sure to check in at the credentials booth first)

Car Top Vessels:

You can drive onto the grounds of the Museum on Friday from 7-9am and 6pm- 8pm, Saturday from 7-9am and Sunday from 5-10pm. Access is through the gate just north of the Tug Boat and the south entrance to the Museum). Due to activity around the Show, the Shipyard gate will not be available.

Trailerred Vessels:

You can also load in at one of the boat launch areas along the Mystic River. The Isham Street launch just south of the Shipyard is closed off to trailer launching. We will update the website as more information becomes available. (Alternatively, use Australia Beach before/after hours.)

Trailer Parking:

Please park your trailers at the Mystic Middle School, 204 Mistuxet Ave, Stonington, CT 06378. Offsite Trailer Parking maps will be at the Credentials Booth. This is a very busy weekend for the Museum, so there can be **no trailer parking allowed in Mystic Seaport Museum parking lots**. Leave your trailer at the Middle School and have use of your car for the weekend. Cars without trailers may be parked in the Museum parking lots.

Forklift Assistance:

Please contact us in advance, if you cannot launch your vessel by hand or at the town docks.

Boats storage during the show:

We will have floating dock space along the Australia Beach as well as space on the Beach for boats.

Lodging:

Bunks are available on JOSEPH CONRAD for Friday and Saturday nights ONLY for \$20/person/night. If you would like to reserve a bunk and have not registered for that already, please email reservations@mysticseaport.org or call 860.572.5331. There can be no food or drink stored or consumed aboard CONRAD. Please bring your own bedding. This is more appropriate for participants over 8 years old. There will be a mandatory orientation meeting onboard at 5:30 pm on Friday and again on Saturday night. If you will not be here in time for this orientation, you must make arrangements for a late arrival.

There are many local hotels and a few campsites. We suggest you make reservations early to ensure availability.

Mystic Seaport photographs and videotapes:

Occasionally the Museum will take photographs and videotapes of visitors while on its grounds for use in a variety of publicity and promotional materials and to advance our educational mission. We thank you for your cooperation and support.

There, that wasn't hard...**remember when we used to do all this on a single 8-1/2X11 piece of paper, including the waiver?** Ahh, Progress...

In the meantime, be thinking of a preferred 2 hour time slot to staff the Booth, direct traffic at the Beach, lead a Row, lead a Sail, give a short (20 minute) Talk on the topic of your choice or tell the Story of your boat. In honor of the recently started refurbishment of Rossie Mill (aka the "Small Craft Hall") **we will be featuring boats that are replicas of the ones in the Collection.** Or reasonable facsimiles thereof. i.e. historical shapes rendered in modern materials so they will float after being trailerred a few hundred miles...Let us know your interests/preferences. We will have sign-up sheets available or, even better, send us an email.

Thanks.

Feature Article: Prescott Littlefield's Talk on Dories

by John Hacunda

(By way of introduction, last month's feature was the historic rehabilitation of Prescott's Grandfather's dory currently underway in our JGTSCA Boatshop. Stop by and check it out.)

John's succinct introduction by email: "I found this article from the old JGTSCA website. Looks like Aidan will be the latest caretaker for a living piece of history. John"

One Family's Swampscott Dory

Prescott Littlefield, waterfront activities director for UConn at Avery Point gave a presentation about his grandfather's 16' Lowell built Swampscott dory.

The Dory: 1969 Swampscott Dory built at the Lowell Boatshop in Amesbury, MA on the Merrimack River. The Lowell Boatshop is getting close to celebrating their 220th year of continuous operation in 2014. It is mahogany planked with oak ribs and featured yoke steering, a sliding-gunter sailing rig, centerboard with rod, two rowing stations, and an engine well for a small outboard (originally 3 hp 40 Plus Seagull). My grandfather, Prescott Harland Littlefield, later modified the sailing rig into a leg-o-mutton. Her overall length (15' 10") was a bit shorter than the standard boat (16') as to avoid having to pay to register the vessel in CT. He named her; "2x2".



PRESCOTT HARLAND LITTLEFIELD ORIGINAL OWNER IN HIS SWAMPSCOTT DORY NAMED "2X2"



THIRD-GENERATION OWNER PRESCOTT LITTLEFIELD ROWING THE DORY

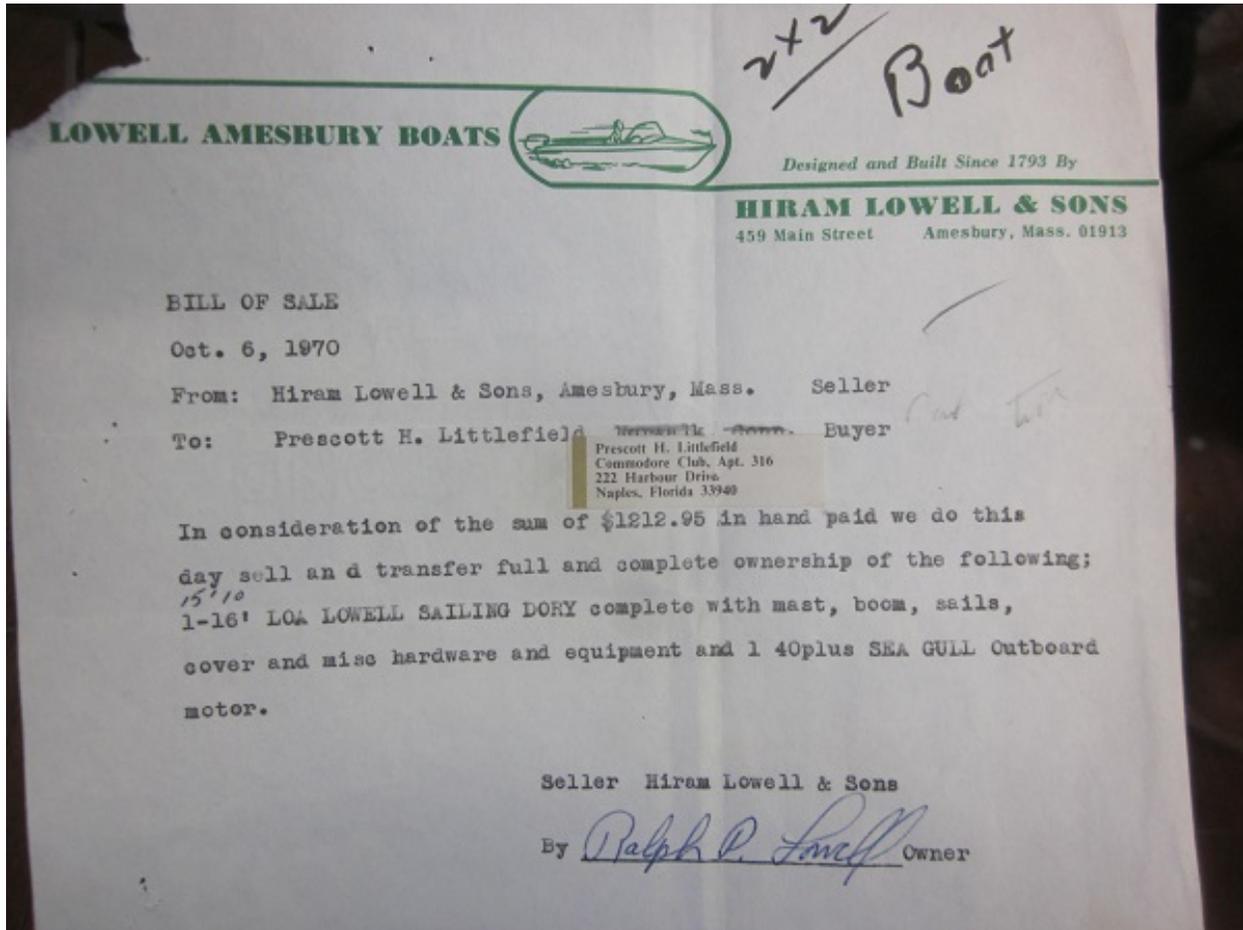


PRESCOTT GIVING HIS TALK AT A JGTSCA MEETING

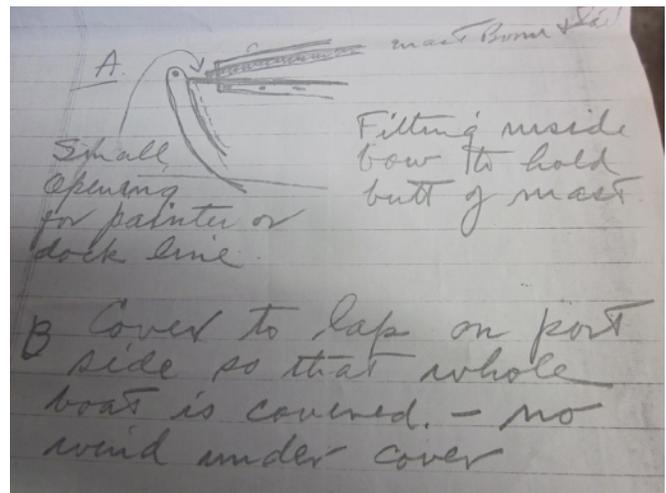
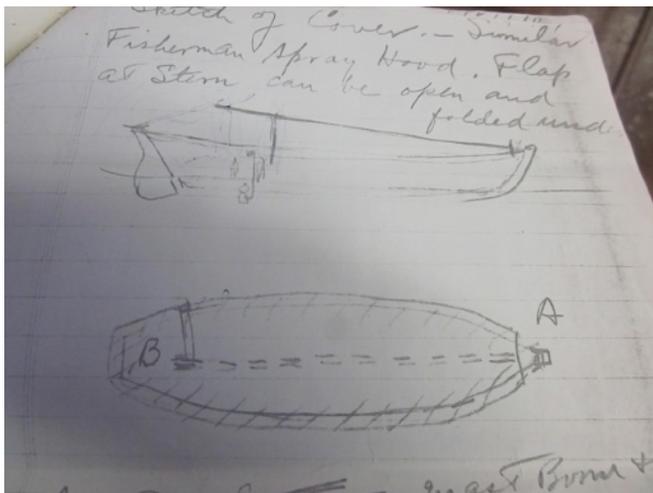
The Heritage: My grandfather used to sail and race 21' Chamberlain Alpha Beachcomber dories around 1916-1917 as a youth in the area of Salem, MA and at Baker's Island off the coast of Marblehead and Manchester, MA along with his brother, Mendum. He later spearheaded an effort to have a Beachcomber dory scale model built by John Gardner which was donated to the Peabody Museum in 1964. It wasn't until 1969 that he contracted with the Lowell Boatshop to build him the Swampscott dory.



BEACHCOMBER DORY SCALE MODEL BUILT BY JOHN GARDNER: ALPHA BEACHCOMER DORY



BILL OF SALE FOR THE DORY FROM THE LOWELL BOATSHOP (DATED OCT. 6, 1970)



ROUGH SKETCHES OF THE DORY DESIGN



The Connection: John Gardner and my grandfather, Prescott Harland Littlefield, were friends. I'm not exactly sure where or when this friendship began, but whenever my parents would bring us to the Mystic Seaport Museum, we would always visit him in the boat building shop. My grandfather's Swampscott Dory was featured in the June 1977 issue of *The National Fisherman* in an article written by John Gardner.

2x2's Travels: 1970; My grandfather lived in Norwalk, CT. Mid-1970's; He moved to Naples, FL and took the dory with him. April 1, 1978; My father persuaded him not to sell it, and he drove to FL (22 hours) with a friend to pick it up. Filled it with grapefruit (for trailer stability) and drove to Old Greenwich, CT (24 hours) where they distributed the grapefruit to any and all takers in town. For winter storage, my father leased space in a friend's barn. The compensation was one bottle of "no-tax" whiskey.



Some years later, my father sold it to his cousin, Jack Littlefield, in Riverside, CT. He eventually gave it to my father's sister, Jane Fairbanks, in Tenants Harbor, ME. When my aunt tired of maintaining a wooden boat and replaced it with a fiberglass version, the dory travelled back to CT, this time Noank, where she rested in a garage barn bay at the Anderson's for 5-7 years. Having been out of the water for some time, I asked if I could have her, restore her, and put her back into use. In 2003, she was rechristened Aunt Peg, for my Grandmother. The boat currently is on the hard in Lyme, CT.

PRESCOTT LITTLEFIELD - LATEST CARETAKER FOR THE SWAMPSCOTT DORY

News from the Shop:

by Matt McKenzie

Graduates!

Since the last update, the shop has graduated its second formal Avery Point cohort! Cookie Wierski and Victoria Carpenter, along with Ian Bradley from last year's first cohort, all donned what is now the formal graduation regalia with which Shop Manager recognizes those who have spent significant time in our hallowed hall: a finished trunnel with a seine twine lanyard that the graduates wear over their graduation gown. Congratulations to Cookie, Victoria, and Ian (class of '22)—thank you for your time and expertise and smiles and laughs.

Shop Projects:

Aidan has continued his progress on restoring the dory he acquired from Prescott Littlefield. Aidan's research has shown that the vessel is a Lowell Swampscott Dory (if this author recalls correctly), and being built completely of mahogany, will prove a pretty boat when done in a few weeks.

Academically, Aidan completed two projects with the build/restoration project: an independent study detailing the role of dories in New England maritime history, and senior capstone methods seminar exploring the intersection of hand crafts and humanities analyses. Even his battle axe of a professor (this author) concedes he did a remarkable job with both.

The shop got a little crowded this week—but only temporarily—with White dory returning for a quick bright-work touch-up. Her owner (this author) was thoroughly negligent in caring for Cookie's work from two years ago. That will be addressed.

Summer Plans:

Looking forward, all the current shop projects look to be wrapped up by early June, at which time I hope to have a thorough shop clean (and I mean a serious clean), to make ready for Dan's build commencing after the Wooden Boat show.

Call for Restoration Boats:

Angelo DeMata—an Avery Point Marine Science student—is eager to undertake a restoration/research project similar to that which Aidan is finishing. Angelo seeks rehab and re-home a small boat akin to a Bootlegger, Penny Fee, or a 15' version of the Little Crab with which he will explore how small boats shaped the development of American marine biology (for those interested, see works by Avery Point's own Helen Rozwadowski, "Fathoming the Ocean", and Neil Sorenson's, "The Ship as a Scientific Instrument"). After all, Spencer Baird, founder of what would become the National Marine Fisheries, started his marine naturalizing from small craft in Woods Hole in 1866. If anyone is looking to re-home one of these or a boat of similar size and utility, please let me know. We hope to tackle that project this fall.

Quotable Quotes:

Willits Ansel (father of Walter, grandfather of Evelyn) re: no-fuss outdoor boatbuilding, "The Beauty is the Simplicity", and "The saved and salvaged is often Superior."

Mystic Seaport Museum Upcoming Events:

Visit the [Mystic Seaport Museum Calendar Page](#)

- May 18 - 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm - *All Hands On Deck*: a Book Talk w/ Will Sofrin
- May 19 - Connecticut Safe Boater Class (also May 26th)
- May 20 - Boating with Directions by Magnetic Compass
- May 27 - Alexis Rockman: Oceanus Opening Weekend - 10 large-scale watercolors
- May 27 - Seaport Boathouse Opens - Weekends until mid June. Come try a boat.
- May 27 - 28 Memorial Day Weekend at the Museum's new performance stage: Two lively concerts: 2 pm Saturday: New London Big Band and 2 pm Sunday: Celtic-American Roots Music w/ RUNA. Bring your lawn chairs, grab a drink at Schaefer's Spouter Tavern and enjoy music along the waterfront.
- June 3 - Celestial Navigation in the Age of Sail
- June 3 - 4 - Riverfest - Visiting fishing and oyster vessels w/ crews; demos, oysters
- June 10 - Newfoundland Dog Training
- June 10 - 11 - Lunars: Finding Longitude by Lunar Distances
- June 15 - Sperm Whales w/ Gaelin Rosenwaks, Marine Scientist
- June 23 - 25 - WoodenBoat Show
- June 23 - 25 - John Gardner Small Craft Workshop
- July 4th - Independence Day Reenactments
- July 22 - Antique and Classic Boat Rendezvous
- July 22 - Woodie Cars on the Green
- August 19 - 20 - 32rd Annual Antique Marine Engine Expo

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.tasca.net and receive a copy of the "Ash Breeze".

Folks: Only about one-third of our last year's members have renewed...We Need You!

Photos/Artwork

by Ellie Czarnowski



MAY 6TH: FIRST TRIP - POWERS LAKE IN THE MORNING

From the Side Deck: Well, that about sums it up, Folks. Beautiful Day, Beautiful Boat, and Beautiful Passenger. Hope to see everyone soon. Think hard about supporting the JG Workshop. We need you. Meanwhile, keep those Cards & Letters coming, Folks. Bill & Karen