

# 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 Tender Build and Student Skiff Rehab + Dory Maintenance**  
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](http://www.facebook.com/JGTSCA) and <http://www.jgtsc.org>  
National: [www.TSCA.net](http://www.TSCA.net)

## News from around the Chapter: It's Official!



Longtime Member Sid Whelan has donated \$10,000 to our Chapter to “support young builders of Traditional Small Craft”. It is Sid’s hope that his gift will “help several young people to become lifelong enthusiasts of the small craft heritage that John Gardner so effectively promoted.”

Treasurer Ellie Czarnowski thanked Sid by saying “We are honored to execute your wishes this be used to support the training of young builders of traditional small craft”.

Shop Leader and UCONN Professor Matt McKenzie added, “Sid, thank you for your generous support. With this gift, the shop will continue to support the community and Avery Point students in continuing local boatbuilding traditions.”

**A RECENT PHOTO OF SID WHELAN HOLDING A COPY OF THE RESOLUTION HE AND JOHN GARDNER GOT APPROVED BY THE ADIRONDACK GUIDEBOAT BUILDERS’ CONFERENCE IN JANUARY 1975 FAVORING THE AMENDMENT OF “ARBITRARY AND UNJUSTIFIED COAST GUARD REGULATIONS TO EXEMPT TRADITIONAL SMALL CRAFT”. WITH JOHN GARDNER, SID WAS ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF OUR NATIONAL TRADITIONAL SMALL CRAFT ASSOCIATION.**

Treasurer Czarnowski established a special account which, hopefully, will attract further donations. Our Chapter’s elected Board will administer the funds. Thank you, Sid!

## Upcoming Events:

### The First 'Lil 'Gansett Bay Raid

**Saturday 14 October 2023**

**0900**

#### **Barn Island Boat Ramp, Stonington, Conn.**

Bring your traditional small craft sailboat for the first annual raid on Little Narragansett Bay. Depart Barn Island Ramp by 0900 (high tide that day in Stonington is 0849), and sail to Stonington Harbor via Sandy Point; then inshore past the outer breakwater to inside Napatree Point, up into Watch Hill, then back to the Ramp.

Bring a lunch to either eat aboard or rafted up.

I would recommend an early arrival as there may be significant fishermen traffic at the ramp.

**The weather looks a bit iffy, so please check in with Matthew McKenzie at**

([matthew.mckenzie@uconn.edu](mailto:matthew.mckenzie@uconn.edu)).

### Pawcatuck River Fall Foliage Row/Paddle

**Saturday 28 October 2023**

**1000**

#### **Bradford Boat Launch, Alton Bradford Road, Bradford, Rhode Island**

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 earlier than last year, hoping 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>

## Recent Events:

### Messing About in Boats: A day on the water at UCONN Avery Point

Friday, September 15, 2023

9 am - 3 pm

UCONN Avery Point, 1084 Shennecossett Road, Groton, CT

Even though winds were strong, Dan Nelson reported that “ALL the water activities took place - Project O went fishin’, Prescott Littlefield shepherded the kayaks, and Phil Behney and I gave rowing lessons with the dories.” This event was free and only open to UCONN students so it was a great way to meet our host school’s students and spread the word about our Community Boating activities. Matt McKenzie and Cookie Wierski staffed our Building 36, giving tours and gave tips on how to use a random orbital sander.



Event Organizer Larissa Graham shared “Thanks again for a GREAT day last Fri. We had 60 participants (85 registered, 15 canceled, only 10 no-shows) and, even though conditions may not have been ideal, there were smiles all around!”

The event was sponsored by the new Connecticut National Estuarine Research Reserve, Connecticut Sea Grant, Project Oceanology, The John Gardner chapter of the Traditional Small Craft Association, UConn Department of Marine Sciences, UConn Avery Point's Waterfront Program, and UConn Avery Point campus. Look for follow-up activities and gatherings in future.

Learn more about the Reserve <<http://s.uconn.edu/ctreserve>>

### September Oar, Paddle and Sail Outing

Sunday, September 17, 2023

10 am - 2 pm

Peruzzotti Boat Launch at Burrows Ball Field, 140 South Road, Groton, CT 06340

High winds and rain postponed this event one day, from Saturday to Sunday, but two self-described “Lug-Nuts”, Matt McKenzie and Chris Vargas showed up in their lug-rigged dories and celebrated the advent of Fall’s sunny, cool(ish) breeze.

As Matt McKenzie reported: Once Hurricane Lee sucked out to sea all the oppressive, humid, and still air, fantastically dry westerlies filled in to give the fleet some motivation. At first it looked like an ash breeze would send us along, but shortly after rowing under the train tracks

at Peruzotti Landing in Groton, a light zephyr grazed our cheeks. And by the time we had rigged sails and shipped rudders, they had become steadily southwesterly.

The JGTSCA fleet was made up of two dories—Chris Vargas’ beautiful and quick Nor’easter dory “Socially Distant”, and Matt McKenzie’s intrepid and heavy “White Dory.” Former member Dane Rochelle came down to the landing to offer us best wishes, and wound up getting shanghaied into service aboard White Dory for his troubles.

Once the wind settled in, we worked south towards the Sound against both it and the tide. But with no chop and a filling wind, the Poquonock River estuary offered ideal sailing conditions. Soon, it was clear that Socially Distant was the flyer of the fleet, as Chris walked past White Dory with Matt and Dane hurling “helpful” comments as he passed by. For the record, White Dory is a “heavy weather boat” (read, “slow and heavy”)—so she was not destined to do well against Chris’ newly built, light, and speedy craft. But we sailed in company, Chris kindly holding station if not sailing circles around the heavier counterpart, as Matt and Dane philosophized, pondered, and otherwise made up in conversation what their craft did not offer in speed.

We beached on the inside of Bushy Point, stretched legs, snacked, philosophized and ruminated more, then hopped back in for the downhill run back to the launch site. By now, the wind had freshened a little more, and taking the wind on their quarters, the two lug rigs cut a fine figure running back up the river with “bones in our teeth.”



We shot through the old causeway gut—looking grand as we did—at which point Chris, not done with sailing for the day, hauled his wind and headed back out. Matt and Dane nosed into some reeds, dropped the sail and stick, and rowed back to the ramp, waxing poetical and philosophical the whole way. An hour later, Chris pulled up the ramp having buried a leeward rail in the building wind, and we all agreed to meet up for the Little ‘Ganset Bay Raid in mid-October.

All the readers of this publication appreciate how pretty our community’s craft can be. But small boats are meant to be used while being ogled. Call some of our chapter members, get out there, and use our boats as we intended them to be used!

(Photos by Dane Rochelle and Chris Vargas)

## Mid-Atlantic Small Craft Festival

Friday thru Sunday, October 6th, 7th & 8th, 2023

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels, MD

An annual event jointly sponsored by the Museum and TSCA, this attracts traditional small craft from up and down the East Coast from Florida to Maine in a manner similar to our John Gardner Small Craft Workshop in Spring. For years, in fact, our family book-ended the season with these two events. Camping is allowed for the weekend on campus with activities for the whole family starting with a BBQ, freshly shucked oysters and music by the "Hard Times Band" (comprised of CBMM staff). Saturday began with fresh pastries courtesy of TSCA followed immediately by Cardboard Boat construction for the kids, boat judging for the elders and a behind the scenes tour of the CBMM shipyard's restoration of the 1920 Buyboat, "Winnie Estelle".

A wine bottle bag (suitable for dragging behind your camp-cruiser) made of recycled sailcloth was the Craft Workshop followed by our own Karen Rutherford leading a Watercolor Workshop for all ages. In between, educator and author Douglas Brooks launched a 21 ft. traditional Shinto Launch which had been under construction all week, the Wooden Boat Builders's from



Northeast, MD demonstrated their 100 year old Morris canoe reconstruction techniques and our Liz Blackwell led a kid's model boatbuilding workshop which culminated in a fleet of 12 inch boats sailing around in a shallow swimming pool on the front deck.

"Captain Cardboard" then held the Cardboard Canoe races between the docks - some made it to the finish line... The Sailing Race Skipper's meeting was also at noon; high winds postponed the race until 2 pm and even then it was quite lively. Rowing races followed with classes from sliding seat to single oar on gunnel to doubles.

The Shanty Sing was held while judges, sailing committee and rowing organizers tallied scores for prizes to be awarded during and after the southern style (lots of food) dinner. The Keynote speaker after Dinner was Douglas Brooks who gave a fine talk on Japanese boatbuilding.

Chesapeake Light Craft was there with a sampling of boats to try. Sunday was reserved for a Swap Meet after pastries and coffee. A good time was had by all, old friends swapped tall tales and all admired the boats tied along the docks. Put this annual event on your calendar for next year, the first full weekend in October. Email me with questions: Bill Rutherford at [smallcrafter@gmail.com](mailto:smallcrafter@gmail.com)

Next year their new entry building will be open...we got a sneak peak. It looks a lot like our planned Seaport Small Craft Hall with small craft lining the walls...

## News from the Shop - at Avery Point

### Dan's Passagemaker Take-Apart:

The shop has been quietly busy this spring and summer. Dan Nelson is finishing his build of a CLC Passagemaker Take Apart, and the product is magnificent. Built as a regular Passagemaker but with two bulwarks where the boat comes apart, at some point Dan will have to cut his boat in half. How he will be able to is beyond the ability of this writer to comprehend, but one must do what needs must doing. Dan, good luck with that.



### Angelo Demata's Rehab of a Stimson Sea Urchin Skiff:

With a heartfelt thanks to Dane Rochelle for his willingness to part with a beloved boat, Avery Point marine biology student Angelo DeMata began rehabbing a Stimson Sea Urchin today. The boat came to Angelo with much love, and in great shape, so the shop manager is cautiously optimistic this will be a quick turnaround project. Angelo will be using the restoration process to think about how "doing" affects his thinking about other people "doing"—either past present. In addition, the plan is to use the skiff to poke up into local salt marshes in unobtrusive ways for scientific observation and data collection. While the 9/16 event will not be possible, Angelo hopes to make the 10/14 event.

Finally, Aidan Davies is studying in Florence this term, but it is the hope of the manager to finish his Lowell Dory project when he returns in the new year.

If anyone wishes to set aside shop time, please reach out to me!

Matt

[matthew.mckenzie@uconn.edu](mailto:matthew.mckenzie@uconn.edu)

## Results of our latest Meeting/Gathering:

Meeting date: 9-10-23

Boathouse 5:00-6:00 pm

Attendees: Brian, Matt, Dan, Ian, Peter, Ellie, Phil

Actions/Discussions:

- 1) Ellie brought a card for members to sign thanking Sid for his donation to the JG Chapter.
- 2) Matt proposed giving the old trailer that was donated to the club to a student for the boat he is repairing. Motion passed.
- 3) Need to schedule elections. Brian will resign as President the end of 2023. Cookie will resign as Secretary at the end of 2023
- 4) Discussion about how to get members to participate.
- 5) We will have meetings in Nov and Dec.

Additional note from Brian: I'll send out an email blast once we decide the meeting time/date/place for Nov and Dec. Brian [cooperbd@aol.com](mailto:cooperbd@aol.com)

## Advertisements:

This spied by John Hacunda:



Ahoy: Nice looking wooden boat for sale (not too pricey and negotiable). I was thinking that Phil or Russell might be interested (they always have to have a half dozen or more boats at any given time - LOL). John

<https://providence.craigslist.org/boa/d/westerly-chamberlain-dory-skiff/7664069624.html>

## From the Side Deck:

Fall Colors Row October 28th: Hope to see you there! Time to gather and celebrate before we put the boats away. Remember, we survive on stories you send us - share one of your summer adventures...Thanks, Bill & Karen [smallcrafter@gmail.com](mailto:smallcrafter@gmail.com)