

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

Next Gatherings: Friday, Dec. 20th the Solstice Row: Launch at 3 pm from Stafford St. in Mystic (by Mystic Shipyard, East) and Meet at Harp & Hound at 5 pm; Next Meeting: 1:30 pm Sunday, January 5th at the UCONN Avery Point Community Boathouse Building #36 1084 Shennecossett Road Groton, CT 06340. All are welcome!

Local: <http://www.JGTSCA.org> & www.facebook.com/JGTSCA
National: www.TSCA.net

Upcoming Events:

JGTSCA Solstice Row: Fri Dec 20th 3:00pm - 5:00pm

18 Stafford St, (Mystic Shipyard, East) Mystic, CT 06355



Our Annual Solstice Row on the Mystic River is currently planned for Friday, December 20th at 3 pm at the Stafford Street put-in where we keep our dories alongside a garage (just to the left of Mystic Shipyard East).

After the row, we plan on adjourning to the Harp & Hound, 4 Pearl Street, Mystic, CT for some good cheer!

JGTSCA 2025 Planning Meeting: Sun Jan 5th 1:30pm - 2:30pm

JGTSCA Boathouse, 1084 Shennecossett Rd, Groton, CT 06340



We'll kick off the New Year with a meeting to elect officers and plan activities for the upcoming year. If you like, bring some food to share (perhaps that fruit cake you received for Christmas)! Happy holidays and see you then!

(From our website - Thank You, John Hacunda)

Visit <http://www.jgtasca.org/events.html>

Our Lead Article: Remembering Iain Oughtred

By John Hacunda



Photo: From Iain Oughtred's Facebook page.

I remember meeting Iain Oughtred at Mystic Seaport during the WoodenBoat Show in 2010. Being a wooden boat enthusiast, I was familiar with his elegant small boat designs and had seen photos of him in several publications.

Iain was in one of the vendor tents, engrossed in looking at a book, when I excitedly approached him and said, "Hi, Iain." He looked up, gazing at me through his rimless spectacles, probably trying to fathom whether he knew me. I

quickly explained that I greatly admired his boat designs and belonged to a local boatbuilding group, the John Gardner Chapter of the TSCA.

At first, he seemed a bit shy, and I noticed he was wearing a woolen sweater appropriate for his home in Scotland's Isle of Skye, but somewhat out of place for a summer New England day. He probably was amused to be recognized in public by a complete stranger. After all, wooden boat designers don't typically have the same celebrity profile as rock stars. We had a nice conversation, and he mentioned that he was being honored during the WoodenBoat Show.

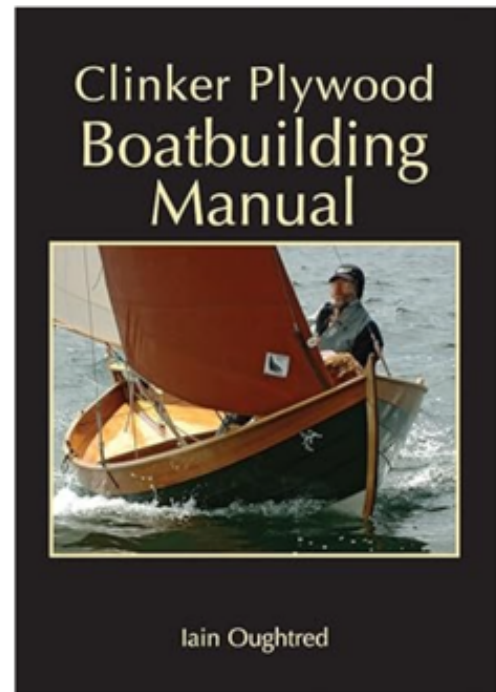
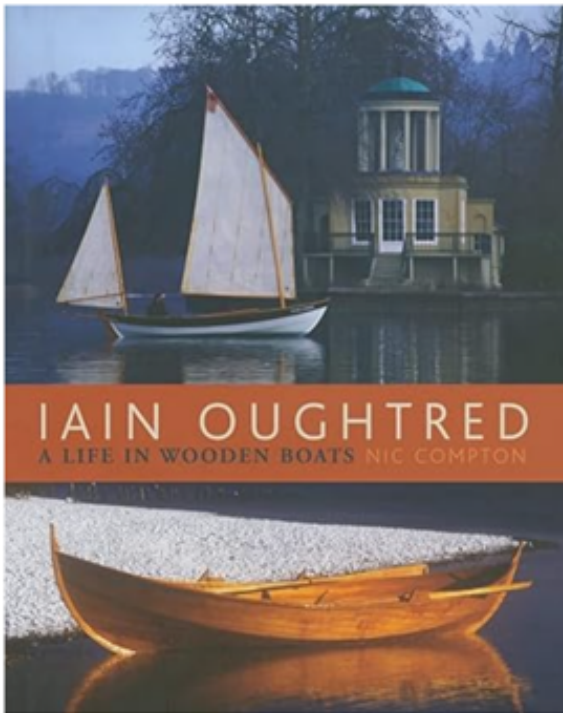
Several months later, I contacted Iain and mentioned that the JGTSCA wanted to recognize his achievements with a Life Membership, an honor that entitled him to attend all our events and, in addition, to free hot dogs during our Friday evening work sessions. Iain kindly accepted, although he never took us up on the hot dogs.

We kept in touch via Facebook, and I learned that Iain was also a fan of the Canadian-American group The Band. The Band took traditional elements of Americana, folk, jazz, and country music to give it its own updated interpretation. I think Iain was much the same, taking elements of traditional boat designs to give them fresh life with his reimagined contemporary designs.

Nic Compton has written a biography of Iain's life titled "Iain Oughtred: A Life in Wooden Boats." The book's back cover has the following description.

"Iain was instrumental in Britain's wooden boat revival. A former dinghy racer turned boatbuilder and designer, Iain developed a cult following both for the beauty of his designs and the quality of his detailed drawings. He creates boats that are exceptionally appealing, yet inexpensive, and ideally suited for the amateur builder. With over 100 designs (and growing) to his credit, Iain frequently bases designs on traditional local craft."

I was saddened to learn that Iain passed away last February, but his legacy remains in the beautiful boat designs he gave us.



Iain Oughtred obituary

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2024/apr/04/iain-oughtred-obituary>

Oughtred Boats

<https://www.oughtredboats.com/>

Scottish Coastal Rowing

<https://scottishcoastalrowing.org/>

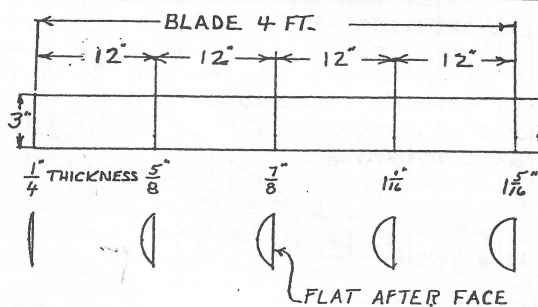
Interview | Iain Oughtred, Small Boat Designer Extraordinaire

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B47Vm3kusLI>

Avery Point Boathouse News:

Late-breaking news from Matt McKenzie: He admits to being the mysterious shop cleaner and shared that he is the proud owner of a new (*gasp*) fiberglass sail boat! “The White Dory never liked being a sail boat—she’s a rowboat with a pedigree not to be sullied by sailors . . .” And the new boat? “She does, indeed, have but one, large, gaff-rigged sail. You said, “Young man, you need a Catboat” and you were right! A 14’ Fisher Cat in decent shape. Now, the mast stepping sheer-leg thing I am designing off the back of my Jeep—well, what could possibly go wrong? 16’ legs to haul the mast heel 13’ off the ground to get into the mast partners—all by myself! We’ll see if it kills me. And, well, for eco-friendly power, I did splurge for an E-propulsion 1.5 hp equivalent—they’re \$100 off right now—I wonder what’s been found to be wrong with them)”

FIG. 17 SOME IRISH CURRAGH OARS



8 FT. LENGTH OVERALL.
23" INNER LOOM LENGTH
OAR IS VERY LIMBER.

23 FT. - 3 MAN - PLANKED - BOSTON CURRAGH.

COUNTY KERRY OARS *

11 FT. LENGTH
BLADE 2 1/4" WIDE, TAPERED TO 1/2" TH. FLAT
BOTH SIDES.

ARAN ISLS OARS *

10 FT. LONG.

* REF. HORNELL, J., "THE CURRAGHS OF IRELAND,"
MARINERS MIRROR VOL XXIV #1 JAN. 1938,
JOURNAL OF SOC'Y FOR NAUTICAL RES.,
CAMBRIDGE UNIV. PRESS. A.B.S. 11-16-91

And upcoming in the Shop: Currach Oars by some new members, return of Aidan's John Gardner Dory and lets get the Dory fleet ready for Spring! Come to the January 5th meeting and hear all about it! Think Spring!

What does a Currach Oar look like? Here is a take from Andy Steever's "Pleasure Rowing" Mystic Seaport 1983 & 1993, Appendix Pg 115:

Note from our President, Ian Bradley:

Hello Everyone,

I will be at the Solstice row on Friday. I plan to arrive at the Avery Point Boathouse at 14:00 to load two boats and help get boats and gear prepped to be at Stafford St. by 15:00 to launch. One club dory is currently at Stafford Street so we will have three club dories plus whatever boats folks bring. Does any gear or other club boats need to be moved to Stafford Street for the Solstice row? If anyone has ideas about that please reach out so that we can coordinate who can do what and when.

Thank you John for reaching out about these events and for posting to the web.

Thank you Bill for the Chapter communication, logistics and your event support.

I plan to stop in at the Harp and Hound after the row to catch up with folks and share Solstice cheer.

Looking forward to seeing you all and to a great Solstice Row!

Ian Bradley iggbradley@gmail.com

Latest from the Mystic Seaport Boat Livery:

The boats are out of the water, safely stored ashore and being brought into the Livery Boathouse and the John Gardner Small Craft Boat Shop for minor fixes, putty and paint. Here are some progress photos:



Al Grant rolling and Mac Cooper tipping topside paint on Culler punt “Skye”; Mac and John Malmros painting the inside of “Chuck” the popular Noank Skiff.

Upcoming Mystic Seaport Museum Activities:

Special Holiday Hours:

Open Dec 30 – Dec 31,

Closed Jan 1, Open Jan 2- Jan 5

Winter Hours Start January 6th

Thursday through Sunday 10 am - 5 pm

Enter through North Entrance

View Events and Exhibits:

<https://secure.mysticseaport.org>

Special Events:

Lantern Light Village

DECEMBER 20, 21, and 22

Timed Entry: 5:00 - 8 pm

<https://mysticseaport.org/lantern-light-village-2024/>



Take a journey through time this holiday season at Mystic Seaport Museum! What connects the festive seasons of bygone days to the present? The spirit of love that enchants us all.

Love for each other, for seasonal traditions of every kind, for twinkling lights and carolers. This holiday season, join us at the Museum's Lantern Light Village and feel the love! Immerse yourself in evocative lantern light and the sound of music-fueled twinkling displays as you explore the Museum after dark. Take in our riverside campus brimming with the tastes and sounds of the season, from holiday cookies and carolers, to old-time dances, a horse-drawn carriage ride, crackling fires, and a visit with Saint Nick. Reminiscent scenes will transport you back in time while village townspeople from 1876 share their love stories, memories, and traditions as they prepare for a festive and joyful holiday. Enjoy games, family crafts, music below deck on the Charles W. Morgan, and so much more. This year discover why the new Lantern Light Village experience at Mystic Seaport Museum is a fun and magic-filled tradition for so many.

The 77th Annual Community Carol Sing

Sunday, DECEMBER 22nd

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

<https://secure.mysticseaport.org/25340/25343>



Donations of non-perishable food items and monetary donations will be accepted at the North and South Entrances to be given to the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. The Mystic Seaport Carolers will perform a holiday concert in the Meeting House at 2:00 p.m. The Carol Sing will commence on the deck of the Thompson Exhibition Building and the McGraw Gallery Quadrangle at 3:00 p.m. led by Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies at the University of Connecticut, Jamie Spillane, and backed by the Mystic Seaport

Carolers and a brass quartet. Visitors should gather on the quad just before 3:00 p.m. Song books will be loaned out to visitors for the caroling.

This event is FREE to the community, no tickets required.

Kids Countdown to New Years with Steve Elci & Friends

Tuesday, December 31st

12:00–3:00 p.m.

<https://secure.mysticseaport.org/public-events/25472>

Free with Admission

Come join us at Mystic Seaport Museum for a family-friendly musical countdown to the New Year! Enter through the North Entrance—the first 50 kids will get their own noisemaker! At 12:00 p.m., fun crafts for kids, such as making party hats, will take place in Home Port. We'll ring in the New Year with fun giveaways and a musical performance by Steve Elci & Friends at 2:15 p.m. on the McGraw Gallery Quad, ending with a New Year's countdown and confetti cannons at 3:00 p.m.! Kids will love this high-energy musical event that will have everyone dancing and singing along. Steve Elci & Friends is a band dedicated to learning through music that is entertaining for both children and adults and will leave them feeling inspired to learn and grow. Bring your dancing shoes and big smiles to make this a day to remember!

Winter Shipyard Tour

Every Friday, January 3 through March 14 | 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Ever wondered what is behind the ropes in the Museum's Henry B. du Pont Preservation Shipyard? Join us this winter for small group guided tours of the Shipyard's machine shop and rigging loft, and interact with our skilled shipwrights as they describe the work they are doing on this winter's projects, including the *L. A. Dunton*, *Susan Constant*, and more.

This also makes a special gift for that someone who has everything!

Purchase [tickets](#).

Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers:

The Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers meet monthly at 10 am the second Saturday of the month upstairs in the John Gardner Boat Shop. Current member projects are discussed with time set aside for a technical presentation. December's technical presentation was Hans Berger on Insert Casting plastic parts.

The group exhibits models during the summer season downstairs in the John Gardner Building as well as in special shows in various venues around the Seaport campus like the recent Tugboat Show. They are working towards having a dedicated exhibit space to build models while discussing them with Museum visitors. Come and bring a model to discuss. Ask for Gene McNatt or Bob Andrle. Here is the new main email for the group:

mysticseaportshipmodelers@gmail.com

Photos/Artwork:

This month from up in Gloucester, a photo by Terry Sofrin:



From the Mailbag:

Nathan Burgess, Traditional Small Boat Influencer and Leader of the North Shore TSCA (North of Boston) reports that they had Bob Hicks as their guest speaker last month. To all reports it was fabulous; Nathan shared the link to a new crowd source funded archive of all of the Messing About in Boats issues (saves pawing thru my attic)... <https://archive.org/details/messingaboutinboats>

Advertisements:

- *Young Person looking for boat: a double paddle canoe for Sid Whelan's granddaughter
- * Looking for a Home: Fabric on frame Pittaway Canoe & Three Plank Canoe (Pirogue)
- * For Sale: Dane Rochelle's Dory: Contact me smallcrafter@gmail.com for Dane's info.
- * Offered in Trade: Montgomery 10 dinghy - Mike Messick for two (large) bottles of rum.

Update from National

National TSCA has been very active this year co-sponsoring meets from the Mid-Atlantic Small Craft Festival in St. Michaels, MD to a Wooden Boat Show in central Oregon as well as offering free one-year memberships to youth in boatbuilding programs and interested prospective members. If you or someone you know would like one, see me and I'll share the secret QR Code.

Our John Gardner Chapter does not require National TSCA membership but we strongly encourage it. National TSCA pays for the insurance that covers all of our shop and on-the-water activities and events like the John Gardner Small Craft Workshop that attracts many new people. Please consider becoming a National member if you're not already. **It is only \$35/year** and you will receive copies of the "Ash Breeze", our quarterly boating journal, and help pay our for our insurance. Join and Renew Online at www.tasca.net and become a member.

Remember Your Local Dues to JGTSCA:

Borrowing a pitch Nate Burgess' approach at Boston's North Shore TSCA, "It's that time of year when we have to use all our salesmanship powers (such as they are), to induce fellow TSCA'ers to part with some hard-earned cash. Now we've all heard about inflation and the price of eggs and the price of Big Macs, I'm happy to inform you that neither eggs nor Big Macs are involved in the running of our TSCA group. Therefore the Board has made the decision to keep our dues at **\$15 for the season**, which represents a 0.000% increase over last year (and the last many years). I'm sure you'll agree that it is great value and represents at least a 1000% return on boat fun investment. And in all sincerity, it's probably the cheapest amount that you can spend that has anything at all to do with a boat."

To join or renew, send \$15 to Ellie Czarnowski for LOCAL CHAPTER JOHN GARDNER TSCA Dues or pick up a renewal form at www.JGTSCA.org and Mail it to the following: JGTSCA Treasurer, Community Boat Building #36, UCONN Avery Point Campus 1084 Shennecossett Road, Groton, CT 06340. Thank you in advance.

From the Side Deck:

After Friday the days will be getting longer and we'll be thinking about Summer and what improvements we'd like to see on our boats before launch day. Remember, we are fortunate to have access to the Community Boathouse at Avery Point; reach out to Dan Nelson our Shop Coordinator and Matt McKenzie, Shop Traffic Director to get some bench time. John Unverzagt and Phil Behney are in there Friday afternoons and evenings updating our Dorries; come join in and make some chips and apply some putty and paint!

Come check out their progress 1:30 pm January 5th at our first quarterly meeting of the year. It will be good to see everyone and conjure up some plans for the coming year. To warm up for the meeting, you may wish to consider:

- * Ideas for Winter meetings, shop or museum visits
- * Mini shop projects we could make in one session: shark-mouth boat hooks? Others?
- * How about a Chapter behind the scenes tour of the Seaport's new Small Craft Hall?
- * Interested in a Chapter meeting/talk by Captain Eric of Jamestown's Susan Constant?
- * Where would you like to go on a Summer Row?
- * Can we go for a row/sail before our monthly gatherings at Avery Point? Elsewhere?
- * Meet at the Seaport Boathouse and take some "new" boats out for a row or sail?
- * Jointly meet with the Seaport Ship Modelers? Share a speaker? Sail RC boats?
- * OK, so it's mid-winter: come in and explore our Boathouse Library's new additions?
- * Contribute an article to our Newsletter? Share a favorite Quote?
- * Tap our Membership for short talks: Nic Alley - Amastad, Nick Parker - Roseway?
- * Do a half hull model of your current or favorite boat? (It ain't that hard - power planer)
- * Share your Shop activities - bring in examples?

* Want to take a break from boating? Share some favorite hikes - actually go on one?

* A visit to Snedicker's?

* A family-friendly activity? With Pizza? Radical!

The point is, come with some ideas; your ideas may spark others....

Meanwhile, come visit us in Stonington Village, see the Lobster Trap Tree and swing by 26 NW St. and say hello. See if you can find Karen's Buoy..

Fair Winds, Bill & Karen

