

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

Maintenance on Rowing/Sailing Craft

Fridays 3:30 - 7:00 pm at UCONN Avery Point Boat House Building 36

**Next Meeting: On an early Sunday in July at 1:30 pm at UCONN Avery Point Community Boat Building #36
1084 Shennecossett Road Groton, CT 06340?)**

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>



“BUTTON SWAN” REPLICIA IN OUR AVERY POINT SHOP FOR AN UPDATE: JOIN MEMBER ALAN SCHAEFFER FRIDAY EVENINGS FROM 3:30 TO 7:00 PM AS “BUTTON” GETS THE FULL “PUTTY & PAINT” TREATMENT PLUS SOME UPGRADES. COME JOIN IN AND TRADE IDEAS ON IMPROVEMENTS. ABOVE, PRESIDENT IAN BRADLEY (L) AND ALAN (RT) DISCUSS RUDDER SHAPES AND SIZES.

Upcoming Events:

Earth Day Festival Monday, April 21st 11 am to 2 pm at UCONN Avery Point: All JGTSCA Chapter Members are encouraged to attend. We will host an Open House at our Community Boathouse and provide a hot lunch for students and attendees. Come give Ellie Czarnowski a hand with lunch preparation and share our small craft passions with students and professors. The UCONN Avery Point EcoHusky Club will have environmentally focused groups and organizations setting tables on the campus green with an educational component or activity, along with food and music. If inclement weather, they will be inside the Campus Student Center.

Friday Evenings at our Avery Point Boathouse from 3:30 pm to 7 pm: Work on “Button Swan” and help maintain the Club Dories - get them ready for the Small Craft Workshop in June. Come when you can and stay as long as you like. All assistance is welcome!

The John Gardner Small Craft Workshop/WoodenBoat Show June 27 - 29th: Author and YouTube small boat sailor Roger Barnes will be joining us. Roger will be a featured Speaker in the WoodenBoat Show Speaker’s Series. TSCA Member Ben Fuller will be assisting in an after-talk presentation showing the setup for his Camp Cruiser “Ran-Tan” on the lawn outside after which they will join us at Australia Beach and participate in our Workshop. Not to be missed! Registration is now open at <https://secure.mysticseaport.org/29883/29885>

As is our wont, we would like to share **our experience in signing up for the Small Craft Workshop:** To Sign up, Go to mysticseaport.org, select Menu, under Visit, select Calendar, arrow forward to June, go to June 27th, select Small Craft Workshop, read down to “Choose from Available Items” and select Small Craft Workshop (3 days) \$25 to \$45, scroll down to Adult (18+), click on Quantity and enter the number “1”, then scroll down and insert your name, email and phone number, then click “add to cart”.

At this point you may wish to check the cart to make sure it went through. If it did not, it is probably because a required item was left blank (ask me how I know). Assuming it went thru, click on the red “Return to Calendar” to begin this all over again, because you will need to do this for each member of your party. Each person gets an individual ticket. If you are a member of Mystic Seaport Museum, the computer will automatically decrease the rates to \$20 Adult and \$10 youth. If you are a member and the computer does not recognize you as one, you may be requested to go back and open an account.

Caution: the event has a 20 minute time limit, after which it deletes the information in your cart and you have to start over (again, ask me how I know), so collect everyone’s email address and phone number before you start, or have them readily at hand. The rest is the usual routine of checking out your cart, input credit card info and there you have it! Much simpler than last year. And if all else fails, call the Seaport during business hours and talk to a real, friendly person. See you at the Workshop!

Latest Meeting Minutes:

JGTSCA Business Meeting

UConn Avery Point Building 36

April 6, 2025

Draft Minutes

Present were: Brian Cooper, Pierce Kepple, Gene Caputo

Ellie Czarnowski, Dan Nelson, Ian Bradley, Eric Speth, Dave Bachand, Bill Rutherford, John Hacunda, Alan Schaeffer, Phil Behney and Peter Vermilya

President Ian Bradley brought the meeting to order at 1:40pm

1. Secretary's Report

- a. The Minutes for the 01/06/25 Business Meeting were unanimously accepted.

2. Treasurer's Report

- a. Treasurer Ellie Czarnowski submitted a Report for 1st quarter of 2025. We have \$16k in the account which includes funds for the Sid Whelan Fund.

3. Old Business

a. Sid Whalen Bequest development

- i. No formal report was submitted. The JGTSCA officers will continue to discuss options. The New London Community Boatworks was mentioned as the type of grantee which fulfilled Sid Whalen's stated purpose in his bequest.

4. New Business

a. Boat Shop Report

- i. Pierce Kepple said he would be delighted if JGTSCA would use his 12' Shew and Burnham Whitehall boat in teaching hands-on boat maintenance skills to young people.
- ii. Alan Schaeffer gave a most interesting presentation on his replica of the *Button Swan* now in the JGTSCA shop. (The original *Button Swan* is part of Mystic Seaport Museum's Watercraft Collection.) Alan intends to finish repainting the boat, replacing some hardware, and is looking forward to sailing the boat. He may make some alterations to allow him to camp-cruise the boat. He is looking for volunteers to help on Fridays afternoons and evenings at the JGTSCA club house.

5. Upcoming events

- a. UCONN Avery Point Earth Day April 21, 2025, 11:30 – 1:30pm
 - i. Volunteers to help with food prep and distribution at the JGTSCA Club House will be most appreciated.
- b. WoodenBoat Show/Small Craft Workshop at Mystic Seaport Museum June 27-29, 2025, 9am to 5pm.
 - i. Volunteers to help with bringing dories around from East Mystic Shipyard for use at the Small Craft Workshop will be appreciated.
 - ii. Roger Barnes will give a presentation at the Wooden Boat Show about his small boat camp-cruising experiences in Europe and England. Not to be missed! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4q20v4_H8g
He will also spend time with JGTSCA at the beach during the weekend.
 - iii. JGTSCA members can register for the Workshop in advance at <https://secure.mysticseaport.org/29883/29885>

The Meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm; Respectfully submitted,

Peter T. Vermilya, JGTSCA Secretary



“BUTTON SWAN” AT THE JGTSCA MEETING APRIL 6TH

Avery Point Boathouse News:

As is obvious by now, “Button Swan” moved in to APBH March 14th and work has begun. Larissa Graham attended and forwarded us a list of attendees.

She reports: “Ian Bradley, Ellie Czarnowski, Ellie’s dog Ophelia, Russ and Jane Smith, Alan Schaefer brought a young helper, Christian, and myself. I think that was it. Alan and Christian got the boat inside by themselves, I was unable to help because of my back injury 😞 Nice boat in good condition with interesting history which Alan had to retell each time a new person entered the shop. 😊”

The JGTSCA Dorries also need some love; please stop by and lend a hand. We want them to look good at the Small Craft Workshop.

And a reminder from Ellie: Please remember your Dues:

Send \$15 to Ellie Czarnowski for LOCAL CHAPTER JOHN GARDNER TSCA dues:
Use the On Line Join & Renew form at www.JGTSCA.org click on “More” and “Join or Renew” and Mail in the form with your check to the following: JGTSCA Treasurer, Community Boat Building #36, UCONN Avery Point Campus, 1084 Shennecossett Road, Groton, CT 06340

And \$35 for NATIONAL TSCA MEMBERSHIP (remember, they pay our event Insurance): Join and Renew Online at www.tasca.net and receive a copy of the “Ash Breeze”. Click on “Join and Renew” to either join on line or print a form and mail in with your check.

Mystic Seaport Boat Livery:

Winter Maintenance at the MSM Boat Livery is progressing well under the able leadership of Supervisor Rosie DiMatteo. Updated boats are out under the nearby Claggett Boat Shed with fresh ones being added weekly. Boats move in and boats move out of the Shops. And this week, some splashed: two Beetle Cats, an Atkin Skiff and a Seaford Skiff.



Mystic Seaport Museum Activities

SEACLASS:

Boating with Directions by Magnetic Compass April 5 | 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Modern Celestial Navigation: Sextants and Sun Sights April 12 and April 13 | 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. each day

Boating with Tides and Tidal Currents April 26 | 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

[Full SeaClass schedule here.](#)

Chasing Gold: Maggie Shea's Olympic Path to the Tokyo and Paris Olympics

April 17 | 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Connecticut Safe Boating Class (CT Combination Course with Waterski)

April 17 | 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

R.I. Pirate Guy's Pirate Adventure (“Pirate Days” are April 15th & 16th)

April 19 | 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

In the Home Shops



John Henning's build: a PT-11 nesting dinghy by Chesapeake Light Craft; see CLC link for design and videos: <https://clcboats.com/shop/boats/wooden-sailboat-kits/PT-11-Nesting-Dinghy.html>
John says: "I will be bisecting, the weight of each half is right around forty five pounds and should fit on the power boat foredeck. Should be "fun" to cut a brand new boat in half..."

Some Quotes:

"The pioneers cleared the forests from Jamestown to the Mississippi with fewer tools than are stored in the modern garage." Unknown - attributed to Dwayne Laws by Christopher Schwarz

"Champions keep playing until they get it right." - Billie Jean King, American tennis player
from Al Burnett Former Seaport Boathouse Supervisor, big boat deliverer and trimaran sailor

"I used to tell my guys, if you make a mistake and fix it, it doesn't count as a mistake." Mac Cooper, Avalon Marina

From the Side Deck:

That's it for this issue, folks. Keep sending those cards and letters. And Articles, photos and artwork.

Plus Comments: What would you like to see on these pages. Would love to hear from you!

Hope to see you at Earth Day and sign up now for the JG SmallCraft Workshop!

Fair Winds, Bill & Karen Rutherford smallcrafter@gmail.com

