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
at UCONN Avery Point Boat House Building 36 - check website for times

Quarterly Meetings at UCONN Avery Point Community Boat Bldg. #36
1084 Shennecossett Road Groton, CT 06340
Rowing and Sailing gatherings occur during all four 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

ONE MOMENT ON A FRIDAY AFTERNOON IN AUGUST DURING A HEAT ADVISORY, "THERE'S A BREEZE AT WILLOW POINT" - PHOTO BY SHARON BROWN

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 12, 2026 and Sunday, September 13th from 12:00 PM 4:00 PM and Sunday, September 13, 2026 New London, CT. (map) the **New London Community Boatworks will be at the CT Maritime Heritage Festival.** Ben Ellcome reports: "We're building a 14 foot skiff with the public over the two days at the festival. Would love to see you there."

New London Community Boatworks ben@nlcboatworks. nlcboatworks.org

Any interest in an Oar/Sail/Paddle outing on the Poquonock River the third weekend (the 19th or 20th) of September? Most of us usually launch from the Peruzzotti Launch Ramp by the Burrows Little League Ball Park just north of the RR overpass at 140 South Road, Groton, CT 06340, the one that continues on to Groton Airport. We then row under the RR bridge, through the abutments of the old Trolley bridge, then nose in to the sandy beach alongside the airport runway to rig for sail. That frees us up to zip back and forth on the flat protected water behind Bushy Point, which is an extension of Bluff Point State Park. The kayakers usually launch from the parking lot at the State Park. Normal event times for the event are 10 am to 2 pm. There are picnic tables in the trees beside the parking lot at the State Park for lunch after or some folks like sampling one of the local beer gardens…. If of interest, let us know. Bill Rutherford Here.

The UConn Messing About In Boats Event is scheduled for Friday, September 25th. Event coordinator Larissa Graham will soon set an event planning meeting time and date (it will be online). Our Chapter has in the past held an open house at our Community Boathouse as well as provide dories and volunteers to help get people out on the water. Phil Behney has advised that he will no longer be our coordinator for this event. If interested in facilitating, please let us know. It is a very worthwhile event for our host campus.

Register with the Connecticut National Estuarine Research Reserve at https://estuarineresearchreserve.center.uconn.edu/upcoming-events/

No organized JGTSCA formal **Fall Colors Row/Paddle** on the upper reaches of the Pawcatuck River is planned this year. As per Dan Nelson: "Fall colors rows seem to have run their course. For most people it seems once or twice is enough. Everyone knows where it is and can go on their own, on the perfect day. That's what I plan to do. It's tough to pick a day that coincides with peak color, good conditions, and personal availability. Enjoy!" We recommend our usual location at Bradford Boat Landing, 1 Alton Bradford. Road, Bradford, RI 02808. **If you are planning to do a row there and would like some company please let us know and we'll spread the word**… email Bill Rutherford Here

From Bill Stirling & Walter Baron up in Wellfleet Cape Cod:

Announcing the 11th Almost Annual Wellfleet Rowing Rendezvous, 9AM to 1PM, September 26,2026

We are starting a bit early this year, due to the timing of the tides. Low tide is around 6AM, high tide around noon.

This is a FREE event !! Last year we had about 25 boats and about 80-100 people. As you can see above, it was a beautiful day, let's hope for another one!

Hope you can come and row some great boats, and enjoy a few hours on beautiful Mayo Beach in Wellfleet. The Town launching ramp is available for free if you would like to bring a boat, and I encourage you to do so. If you do plan to bring a boat, please try to let me know. It's not a requirement, but it's nice to know . Please include an anchor and pfd's .

Use of the launching ramp at the Wellfleet pier is free for people attending the Rendezvous. Please let the Harbormaster know you are attending the Rendezvous…

We will have Wellfleet oysters, some food, a prize, and water available to refill your personal water bottle, so bring one with you.

Rumor has it that the owner of Shaw & Tenney might make it with some sample oars to try…

Thanks for your interest, Walter Baron, Old Wharf Dory Co. 508-349-2383 www.oldwharf.com..

Sultana Down-Rigging October 30-November 1 in Chestertown, MD: It is what do you get when you combine one of the largest annual gatherings of "Tall Ships" in North America and a top-notch Bluegrass festival in one of the coolest small towns in America!

The Sultana Education Foundation's **Down-Rigging Weekend! features three days of music, sailing, ship tours, lectures, exhibits, and family activities**; there is no festival like it anywhere. What Ships, You say? "Bloodhound" and "Hindu" from Provincetown, Mass., "Lynx" from Nantucket, the "Kalmar Nyckel" from Wilmington, Delaware, "Lady Maryland" and "Pride of Baltimore" from Baltimore as well as the hometown girl, "Sultana" from Chestertown, MD. View three days of activities, including "Sultana's" 25th birthday party (with fireworks), a list of Bluegrass bands and ship tours at downrigging.org And Yes, TSCA will be there…

October 9th CT River Row from Hartford's Riverside Park down to Wethersfield Cove:

Specifics: Depart the Hartford Riverside Park dock at 9 am. Row to Wethersfield Cove, Walk to Old Wethersfield for some food and coffee and take in the Halloween decorations. Row back to Riverside Park. Distance is about 4-1/2 miles (7km). Chris did a similar row last October.

If interested, let Chris Vargas know Here

Are you up for a Tour of the "Susan Constant", Jamestown Settlement's replica of the ship that delivered Virginia's first settlers? **Captain Eric Speth**, Director of Maritime Operations of the Jamestown Yorktown Foundation in Williamsburg, VA, now with the ship at Mystic Seaport has offered JGTSCA a tour this coming this Fall. Stay Tuned! Email us your interest Here

Friday Evening Gatherings at the Avery Point Boathouse 4 pm to 7 pm: Finish work on Ian Bradley's Culler Wherry and Maintenance on Club Dories - get them ready for next season. Email Ian at: Here or Dan Nelson Here

Restoring the Wooden Fishing Boat *Little Lady*

by John Hacunda

As summer waned, I set sail for Martha's Vineyard, fresh off reading Michael Ruhlman's *Wooden Boats* — a book chronicling the story of legendary boatbuilders Ross Gannon and Nat Benjamin. As luck would have it, I learned that there was going to be an evening presentation at the Gannon and Benjamin Marine Railway about the effort to save New England's last surviving wooden side-dragger, *Little Lady.*

Gannon and Benjamin is partnering with the Martha's Vineyard Fishermen's Preservation Trust (MVFPT) on the restoration of *Little Lady*. There was a good turnout at the boat shop, and the evening began with a presentation by Shelley Edmundson, Executive Director of the MVFPT. She was joined by local fisherman Denny Jason, Jr. who is the third generation of his family to fish on the *Little Lady*.

Christian Cabral, from Gannon and Benjamin, gave an overview of the technical aspects of the restoration. He pointed across Vineyard Haven harbor where the *Little Lady* is currently on the

hard awaiting restoration. He excitedly mentioned that lumber had been ordered and the project is going forward.

Post-restoration, the boat will operate as an educational outreach platform for local students and catch seafood to donate directly to public schools and the Island Grown Initiative's Food Pantry. Major preservation work lies ahead, and thanks to an active matching grant, right now is the most impactful time to support the project.

Martha's Vineyard Fishermen's Preservation Trust

https://www.mvfishermenspreservationtrust.org/littlelady

Gannon and Benjamin Marine Railway

https://www.gannonandbenjamin.com

(LEFT) FISHERMAN DENNY JASON, JR. (GRAY T-SHIRT) AND MVFPT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHELLEY EDMUNDSON (BLUE DRESS) ANSWER QUESTIONS.
(RIGHT) NEW ENGLAND'S LAST SURVIVING WOODEN SIDE-DRAGGER AWAITS RESTORATION

Avery Point Community Boathouse

Let's celebrate Fall by gathering on the Community Boathouse side deck to flip some burgers & hot dogs, welcome in the new academic year, spiff up the shop and pitch in and help Ian finish off the deck on his beautiful Culler Wherry! Ben Ellcome has volunteered to be the burger flipper… Reach out to Ian Bradley iggbradley@gmail.com and we'll pick a date…

Mystic Seaport Boat Livery

Over 7500 people have been out in boats so far this year! And there's still time - open weekends and holidays thru October 12th. Meanwhile, off-season maintenance has begun:

(L) SHARPIE "WT" W/ REPAIRED BOTTOM GETS FLIPPED, (RIGHT) A NEW ACQUISITION: A BEAUTIFUL ROWING/SAILING WHITEHALL HITS THE WATER

Mystic Seaport Activities

Upcoming Programs and Events: https://mysticseaport.org

* **Family Field Day September 5th:** Wrap up summer with classic outdoor fun in historic Seaport Village with sack races, bucket brigade, barrels rolling and more. Included in General Admission and free for Members.

* **From Sails to Stars, a Star Trek 60th Anniversary Celebration September 12th:** At the Planetarium with a screening of Star Trek II: "The Wrath of Khan" Included in General Admission and free for Members.

* **Day Sail on Schooner Brilliant September 13th 9 am - 3 pm:** Enjoy a day on the water and learn the basics of schooner sailing or simply take in the sights. Member discounts.

* **Maritime Trades Fisheries and Foodways Day: September 26th:** Enjoy the sights, sounds, and scents of 19th-century trades and cooking alongside Museum staff and guest historians. Included in General Admission and free for Members.

* **Summer Music Series at Schaefer's Tavern September 4th, 11th and 18th:** Bring a lawn chair and blanket and enjoy fine music in a waterfront setting. Food & beverages available for purchase. Free admission to grounds begins at 5 pm.

* **Sabino Cruises plus Grab & Go dinner from Mystic Fish Camp 5 pm to 7:30 pm September 17th, 24th and October 8th:** Take an evening cruise on Sabino and pick up dinner along the way. Members receive discount on cruise tickets.

A One-Time Offer to Double Your Money

Think about it - Small Boats, Historical, Traditional and in our own backyard!

"We have a donor who has agreed to match every gift to the Wells Boat Hall made through September of this year, up to $1 Million. Any support you and your group can provide will be doubled and will help us meet this matching goal. Thank you very much for supporting and for sharing!" Chris Freeman, President, Mystic Seaport Museum.

Here is **a link to the website page about the Wells Boat Hall**: Here

And here is **a link to the donate page for the Wells Boat Hall:** Here

A Few Quotable Quotes

"Land was created to provide a place for boats to visit" a sign at Mystic Seaport…

"In small-craft cruising, courage is rarely allowed. More often, it's quiet judgment exercised at the right moment. And sometimes, the bravest decision is simply knowing when to reef." Cathay Keogh in Small Craft Advisor

Pete Peters called prior to setting out to camp cruise Fisher's Island Sound: "My electronics tell me exactly where I am but I don't have a clue where I'm going…can I borrow a chart?"

Visit our Websites and Join

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.tsca.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.

From the Mailbag

Dan Nelson sent this from Lake Superior up in Wisconsin - no words needed:

And this just in from Steve Brookman in Blue Hill Maine: “Here are photos from our Maritime Heritage Festival on Saturday, some smiling faces to cheer you up: **2026 Photo Album by Michael Percy**

From the Side Deck

Hope this finds you out rowing or sailing your favorite boat as we stretch Summer into September. Please Keep in Touch! Bill & Karen Rutherford smallcrafter@gmail.com