

# JGTSCA



## John Gardner Traditional Small Craft Association

**Welcome to the John Gardner Chapter of the Traditional Small Craft Association**

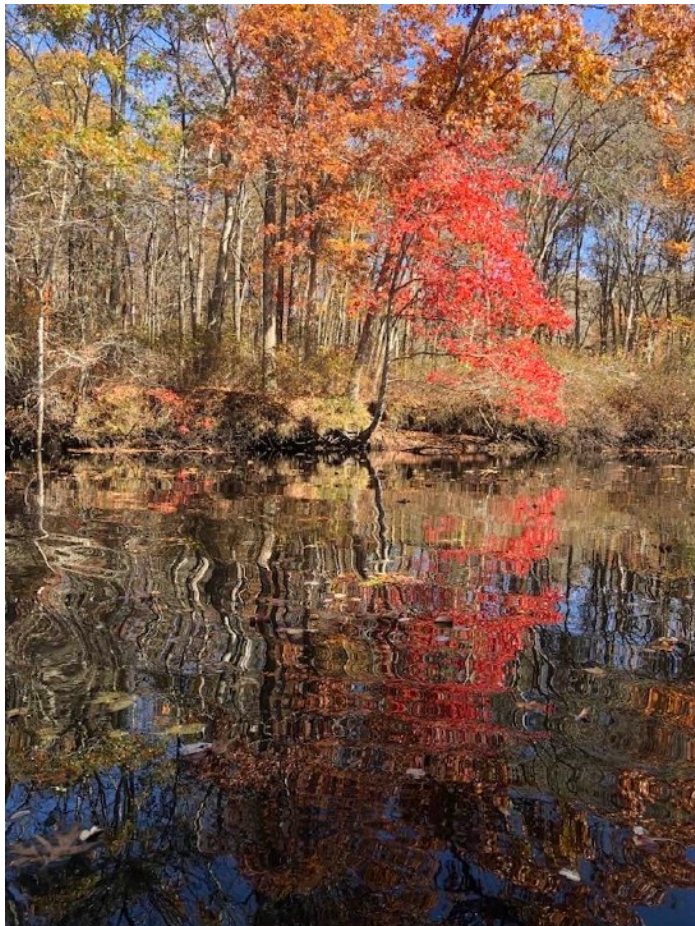
Visit us at the Community Boat House: Building #36 UCONN Avery Point  
1084 Shennecossett Rd, Groton, CT 06340

**New Tender Build as well as Winter Maintenance on Rowing Craft**  
at UCONN Avery Point Boat House Building 36

**Next Meeting: Sunday, December 3rd at 10 am at McQuade's Market**  
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)

### The Pawcatuck Fall Colors Row:



As Dan said, “Kayaks are are the best choice for this venue.” The paddlers who attended had a great time: Dan Nelson in his solo kayak, Darcy Cogswell (1st Mate on Schooner Brilliant) & Shipwright Krit Singh in a double kayak and Brian & Judy Cooper in their sea kayaks. Clouds of oak leaves came down with the slightest breeze. Bright yellows and reds were mixed in with some still green leaves. Warm (60 moving up to 70) - The last day of “Summer”. Lot’s of activity at the launch area: a kayak group from Warwick, a group of campers with their Jon boats piled high and one young fellow scouting out a campsite for his family’s annual Thanksgiving hunting camp.

Brian Cooper reported “It was a great paddle up to the dam.” and as Judy said in her facebook post: “After passing the shoreline inspection we set out on the Pawcatuck River. Not a lot of color, plenty of mossy green trees, tons of winterberry holly and some good paddling companions. Great day to be out doors.”



**FIRST PAGE PHOTO AND THIS PHOTO OF WINTERBERRY HOLLY BERRIES BY JUDY COOPER**



**DARCY AND KIT PADDLING ON A RIVER OF FALLEN LEAVES (PHOTO BY DAN NELSON)**



**BROKEN DAM ON THE PAWCATUCK RIVER NEAR BURDICKVILLE ROAD (PHOTO BY DAN NELSON)**

## **Upcoming Events:**

**A Sunday morning Gathering at McQuade's** in Mystic (10 am December 3rd) at McQuade's Mystic Market, 14 Clara Drive in the informal eating place in the back) of the store. Food available to order. Ellie Czarnowski thought it a fine place to gather, renew face to face contacts and plan for upcoming year. We could even elect some new officers (see attached bylaws with duties lists). Let's plan some outings, visits to nautical type places and rows. The Shop has been busy (let's keep it that way) and attract some new interesting members. See you there. We'll push some tables together and pretend it's like the old days...

**The Solstice Row:** On or about Winter Solstice (December 21st this year) usually a row from Mystic Shipyard East, around the tip of Mystic and up the River to the Bridge and back with a much anticipated stop (either during or after) at the Irish Pub "The Harp and the Hound", 4 Pearl Street, Mystic). Watch for an email from Phil Behney. Many skip the row and go directly to "The Harp"....

## Future Events:

**The First ‘Lil ‘Gansett Bay Raid:** Didn’t happen October 14th due to inclement weather - high winds, steep seas, and discretion being the better part of valor...to be rescheduled when boats are back in the water: a Raid from the Barn Island Ramp to Stonington Harbor via Sandy Point, then inshore past the outer breakwater to inside Napatree Point, up into Watch Hill Harbor and return. Stay tuned. As they say, the first one can happen any time... If interested, please let Matthew McKenzie know ([matthew.mckenzie@uconn.edu](mailto:matthew.mckenzie@uconn.edu))

**Also postponed due to weather but hoping to reschedule for Spring: Celebrating the Connecticut Reserve: A Day of fun at Bluff Point State Park**

Didn’t happen Sat Sept 30th, Activities from 8:30-3:30  
Bluff State Park State, 55 Depot Rd, Groton, CT 06340

Learn more about their plans at this site: <https://s.uconn.edu/Celebration2023> Learn more about the the newly established [Connecticut National Estuarine Research Reserve](#) Planned activities: we spend the day fishing, kayaking, hiking, biking, and exploring at Bluff Point State Park, one of the Reserve’s sites. This family-friendly day will have activities for all ages and skill level. This organization is new to the area and looks to be very proactive in engaging water-centric people like us...

## News from the Avery Point Community Boathouse Shop

### The Fall has been busy at the shop!

Dan Nelson is finishing his CLC build, and as of this writing, the break-down boat has taken beautiful shape, received masterfully applied glass and epoxy, and may be even be complete by now. The spars Dan made gleam to the point of generating their own light, and unsurprisingly, the overall project is one of calm mastery and magnificence.

Alongside Dan’s build, UCONN Marine Sciences student Angelo DeMata rehabilitated a Stimson Sea Urchin acquired from past JGTSCA president Dane Rochelle. The cute little skiff needed little work—mostly a scrape, scuff, and paint—so the turnaround proved quick and relatively painless. Angelo and Shop Manager Matthew McKenzie launched the little boat in mid-October on a beautiful, slightly blustery day at the Peruzzotti ramp on the Poquonnock River. She swam well, made little water (but some—she is a wooden, cross-planked boat that has been dry for a long time, after all), and will serve Angelo as a great platform for this estuarine research work.

This last represents a key element in Angelo’s desire to blend traditional small craft with present-day estuarine research. Building on the glory Dan, Phil, and others brought to the chapter during Avery Point National Estuarine Research Reserve’s “Messing About in Boats” day a month back, Angelo began exploring possibilities of using small craft to poke well up into creeks and marshes to practice more fine-grained sampling of estuaries and their feeder streams and rivulets. Working with Prof. Zofia Baumann of UCONN Marine Sciences, Angelo and Matt took White Dory up Baker’s Cove last week taking samples from five stations along the way. There are some technique issues that will need to be addressed, to be sure, once we

see how the data comes out; but in principle, this could prove an important direction for those members interested in blending their small-boat skills with environmental monitoring.

Finally, word from Florence, Italy indicates member and shop alumnus Aidan Davies is studying hard, most certainly **\*NOT\*** sampling northern Italy's sights, tastes, and sounds (of course), and is planning to press-on with the Gardner dory this winter upon his return. As an academic and shop manager, this writer is proud of Davies' resistance to the temptations of savoring all the wonders of Florentine culture, and is keeping to his room, studiously pouring over each and every written word before him . . . .

Aside from Davies', the winter shop schedule is looking open: please let me know if you have a project you wish to bring to the shop.

Respectfully submitted,

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



**ANGELO DEMATA DOING, AS MATT PUTS IT, "SCIENCE IN SMALL BOATS" AS HE TAKES SAMPLES IN MATT'S WHITE DORY**

## Special to JGTSCA News:

Dan Nelson shared his long-time shopping companion, a bag he hand-stitched from a left-over scrap of sail canvas lo, these many years ago, when he was a schooner skipper visiting strange, foreign ports. This may also come in handy when cruising his new big boat or to us small boat folks when the nearest grocery store is more than a short walk away...

Photos work best showing and explaining this crafty bag. First Dan:

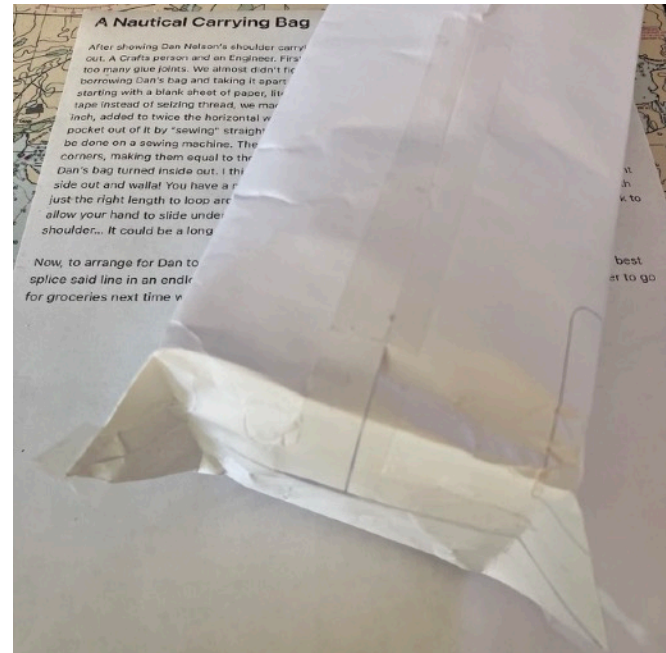
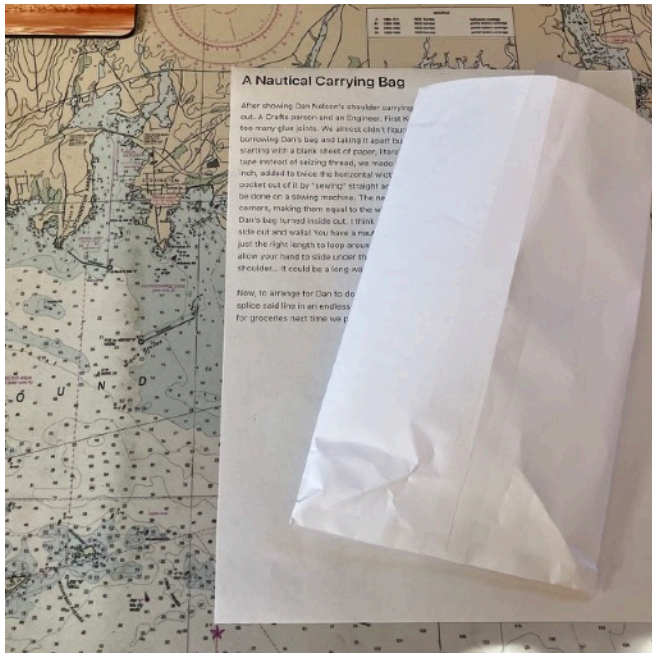


**ON THE LEFT NOTE THE CUSTOM LENGTH OF SHOULDER LINES TO ALLOW DAN TO WRAP HIS ARM AROUND THE BAG AND SLIDE HIS HAND BENEATH FOR SUPPORT. THE PHOTO ON THE RIGHT SHOWS THE LINES SIMPLY SEWN AROUND THE BAG**

After showing photos of Dan's clever grocery bag to Karen, we tried to figure it out. A Crafts person and an Engineer. First Karen tried disassembling a paper grocery sack, but it had too many glue joints. We almost didn't figure it out because we got laughing so hard at the thought of borrowing Dan's bag and taking it apart but not being able to get it back together again... Finally, starting with a blank sheet of paper, literally, and replicating Dan's sequence, hand sewing with scotch tape instead of seizing thread, we made a big band twice the length of a grocery bag bottom plus an inch and added twice the horizontal width of a grocery bag bottom plus an inch. We then made a giant pocket by "sewing" straight across the bottom. Karen pointed what we had done so far could be done on a sewing machine. The next step, though, was a bit more tricky as we folded in the two corners, making them equal to the width of a

grocery sack plus an inch. Bingo! It now looked like Dan’s bag turned inside out. I think those seams would have to be hand sewn. We turned the new bag right side out and viola! You have a nautical grocery carrying bag. Now to splice a bit of left-over line at just the right length to loop around the bag twice and up over your shoulder plus just enough slack to allow your hand to slide under the bag to relieve its weight so as to not cut off circulation to your shoulder... It could be a long walk back from the store...

And here are photos of our unravelling the mystery:



First, make the “Pocket”, “sewn” across the bottom, then fold it into a rectangular bag-like bottom and then fold in the two triangle shaped ends up against the bottom of the bag. This is where some hand stitching may be required to hold the shape of the bag. Turn it inside out, then size your new bag to loosely fit a standard paper grocery sack. You may wish to make a paper pattern to try the concept, then disassemble to trace onto your sailcloth sample...

For a big finale, let’s invite Dan for a “show and tell” to a Chapter meeting for all this as well as how best to splice said line in an endless loop without an obtrusive lump. We’ll then be ready to volunteer to go for groceries next time we pull into a strange port...

## Mystic Seaport Museum Happenings:

### At the Boat Livery:



The Livery Boats are out of the water, up on blocks, awaiting their turn for winter refreshment in the Shop..

First to go in was our chase boat, “Gideon Manchester” for a light polish-up and paint. Good Little Skiff “Waldo Howland” is receiving finishing touches on a new cross-planked bottom while two Beetle Cats await coaming installation after fresh canvas decks.

Contact Mary Koehler, Volunteer Services Manager to volunteer.

[mary.koehler@mysticseaport.org](mailto:mary.koehler@mysticseaport.org)

### Upcoming Events at the Seaport: [mysticseaport.org](http://mysticseaport.org)

#### Lantern Light Village

December 8, 9, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23 | 5:00 pm

Lantern Light Village returns again this year! This family-friendly outdoor experience showcases the contrast between modern and 19th-century holiday celebrations. Travel through time with festive lights, live music, horse-drawn carriage rides, historical reenactments, and a visit from St. Nicholas. Enjoy holiday stories, crafts, and games. Purchase tickets [here](#).

The 2023 Fall issue of the Mystic Seaport Museum Magazine “A Tribute to the Mystic River” is available now in print and online. This issue of the Mystic Seaport Museum Magazine features our newest exhibition, Spineless: A Glass Menagerie of Blaschka Marine Invertebrates, an announcement of the Museum's low carbon transformation strategy, and a special tribute to the historic Mystic River, as well as news from across the Museum!

#### Engineering for Discovery: A Look at ROV Technology

Thursday, November 16 | 1:30 pm (tomorrow)

On November 16, the Global Foundation for Ocean Exploration's David Lovalvo and Melissa Ryan will discuss ROVs (remotely operated vehicles), recent discoveries, and their team of engineers, scientists, filmmakers, and educators. The event is free for Museum Members and requires registration; non-members can purchase admission tickets.

#### Indigenous Craft Fair

Saturday, November 18 | 10:00 am (this Saturday)

Support Indigenous artisans during Native American Heritage Month. Regional tribal artisans will sell handcrafted wampum jewelry, beaded accessories, paintings, pottery, and more.

## From the Mailbag:

### Two New Members have contacted us:

New Member William Taylor who rows his Gig Harbor Whitehall out of Stamford but often is in Mystic as P/T staff at the Seaport: "I've attached a few pictures of my Whitehall. She's fiberglass, so I'm not sure if she'd fit in with your fleet? (Of course, she is welcome! - Ed) The action shot was taken this season. That's Stamford Light. It's actually being restored, and the owner wants me to help demo it inside. It's got 6 floors, and sits on 10 acres! The oar shot is from my first row from this lighthouse over to The Sand Hole, at the mouth of Oyster Bay / Cold Spring Harbor, and back." Welcome William!

New member Jay Fisher who sails out of Groton Long Point has a request for source of lumber: "So, I have a question for this group; I want to build a copy of the POGO, double ended punt, that Walt Ansel built in 2002 and was still on the Seaport grounds as of last summer. It is built out of pine and oak. Oak I have. Clear pine I cannot find. I typically get my wood from Duke Bazozzi at New England Naval Timbers but his last load of pine was full of bad knots. I have checked to no avail with Tallon Lumber, Canaan, ER Hinman, Moore's Sawmill, and Thompson in Hopkinton, RI. Anybody have a source of clear pine for planking?" (If have info, let me know and I will pass it on to Jay. I offered Liberty Cedar West, West Kingston with whom we are well pleased, for oar stock...smallcrafter@gmail.com)

## Boats for Sale:

- \* Rollie Stebbins' classic, traditional 13 ft. Boston Whaler: If you missed having one when a teenager, or just want to buzz around in shallow water, drop me a line and I'll put you in touch with Rollie...
  - \* A Rob Pittaway light weight skin on frame double paddle canoe. Late Fall special deal!
  - \* A Mystic Seaport designed Three plank canoe - in primo shape.. Simple, car top-able
- If of interest, contact me at [smallcrafter@gmail.com](mailto:smallcrafter@gmail.com)

## Remember your Dues for 2024:

\$15 to Ellie Czarnowski for LOCAL CHAPTER JOHN GARDNER TSCA dues: Join and Renew Online [www.JGTSCA.org](http://www.JGTSCA.org) or Mail to the following:

JGTSCA Treasurer  
Community Boat Building #36  
UCONN Avery Point Campus  
1084 Shennecossett Road, Groton, CT 06340

\$35 for NATIONAL TSCA MEMBERSHIP (remember, they pay our event Insurance and mail us the magazine the "Ash Breeze") Join and Renew Online at [www.tsca.net](http://www.tsca.net) and receive a copy of the "Ash Breeze".

## From the Side Deck:

Happy Holidays to All! Remember our gathering at McQuade's Mystic 10 am December 3rd. Look forward to seeing everyone there. Be prepared to elect new officers and start planning for the New Year! Send us your shop projects, summer logs and favorite hikes. Bill & Karen