



The Newsletter of The Carpenter's Boat Shop

Fall 2011

A Splash in the Well

When I was a young boy growing up in Connecticut I was friends with a family that had a 200 year old farm. Beyond their pasture out in the woods was an abandoned well where we loved to go. I would open the old wooden cover, and gaze into the water ten to fifteen feet below. I would drop small pebbles one at a time into the well to hear them splash and watch them slowly sink out of sight. It was that splash that I remember so clearly, and it still brings a sense of peace and comfort from my early childhood years.

I would like to share with you what I now call "splashes in the well." They are brief comments from notes written by various apprentices down through the years who have worked at our benches and shared our simple life:

*I thought that I was coming to the Boat Shop to learn how to build a boat. What I really learned was how to live.

*I was deeply grateful to learn sailing at the Boat Shop but even more that I gained a moral compass for my daily life.

*I am a far stronger person having been a part of the Boat Shop community. I am grateful how open, welcoming and caring the Boat Shop was during my trials in life.



Preparing for a splash in the sea

*I think of my time at the Boat Shop every day. Bobby once said to me that "there is no mistake you can make here that together we can't fix." It now defines how I treat people when I am working with them.

*I don't know if I would have been able to make it in life if you hadn't let me be a part of the Boat Shop community.

*I leave the Boat Shop with both peace and joy in my thoughts and life. I did not arrive in this state, far from it.

*The Boat Shop is a wonderful place for growth and learning, and I feel so fortunate for the daily lessons it still teaches me.

*The Boat Shop plain and simply saved my life. I know that I would not be living if I had not come.

Some of these apprentice comments go back over thirty years and still bring a deep sense of peace and comfort knowing that many have grown from our life and work together.

Blessings on you all,
•Rev. Robert Ives, Director



Back Row (Left to right): Elaine Latham, Matt Filler, Kathleen Boyle, Kim Erno, Elliot Burrows, Emily Skrobis, Phyllis & Robert Ives, Rick Eble, Darin & Serafina Carluci, Jay Blood
Front Row: Casey Fergus, Stephen Hoppe, Nate White, Jonathan Ives, Rob Maher, Margaret Mountcastle, Robert Sutherland, Mariellen Whelan
Kneeling: Christina Hassett, Kenneth Kortemeier, Allie Smith

2011-2012 APPRENTICES

Christina Hassett

Christina hails from right here in Maine,
 She plays in the sunshine, the snowfall and rain.
 She's attached to the sea,
 A shipwright to be,
 Crafting a boat to float her down Maine's island chain.

Dancing she loves, among other things,
 Like dilly beans, letters, hammocks and rings.
 She takes life in stride,
 And will follow the tide,
 To wherever the voice of adventure does sing.

Allie Smith

There once was a person named Allie
 She came from the Willamette Valley.
 She loves to sail boats,

and raise milking goats,
 work and play in the woods and at sea.

Chandra Cannon

I am a retired sailor currently residing in Montana and have cast the die with full stakes on the table to attend this magnificent program. I am ready and open to many beckoning spirits and am very curious as to where this will all lead. I already have a cool and expanding tool box...

Stephen McLaughlin-Hoppe

Hailing from the once great plains of Illinois (most notable Chicago), Stephen has spent the past several years bouncing between part-time jobs and excursions around the Northern Americas. While in cities he works toward urban sustainability (look up The Plant in Chicago!) while otherwise he likes to roam in a

breathless, wind swept fashion. He was drawn to the boatshop after a fortuitous sail across the Gulf of Mexico and was further compelled to learn traditional carpentry skills in the hope that petroleum and industrial and economic globalization's days are few.

Margaret Mountcastle

There once was a gal from down south,
 Whose family said don't move up North,
 But that's what she did,
 And she built boats with kids
 'Til she moved here to ol' Pemaquid.

Jay Blood

Jay Blood was born and raised in Skowhegan, Maine. A gifted baker of bread, Jay is also an advocate for mental health issues and for the

LGBT community. At the Carpenter's Boat Shop, Jay is learning how to resist the urge to take the line.

Emily Skrobis

Originally from a suburb of Milwaukee, WI, Emily felt both a gnawing disconnect from her means of subsistence and a mysterious desire to make things "from scratch" throughout her adolescence. Then she dropped out of college, left The City, and never looked back. Having spent the past several years on various farms and homesteads throughout New England and gaining innumerable skills along the way, she has settled into a comfortable, if transient, rural lifestyle. She is eager to explore her potential as a woodworker during these coming months. She is also looking forward to a life of self-sufficiency, eventually finding a homestead to belong to, and being called an "old timer" in her later years. When pushed to decide, she will usually proclaim her all-around favorite apple to be the Black Oxford.

Nate White

No one is certain about when or where the chappy Nate White was born. Some claim he washed up on the shores of Milwaukee in an empty rum barrel. Others say he was born in the paper mills of Green Bay. One close friend of his reports "that rugged ol' soul looks like he'll pull a knife on you for just the crust of your bread, but, he has a heart that could hold all the water of the great lakes." Of course, people will talk, and rumors make their rounds, but one thing about Nate holds true: He is six

feet of adventure, equipped with a smile that will make even a nun blush.

Rob Maher

I am twenty-seven years old from Massachusetts. As a child, I learned how to sail in Buzzards Bay and have since spent my summers teaching children how to sail. I love music and have an album due out in December (Robert Daniel - No Fare).

Casey Fergus

Casey Fergus was born in Chicago, IL and raised in a suburban town called Roselle. After a two year stint at Grinnell College in Iowa, Casey decided that college wasn't really what he was looking for and so he moved to Portland, Oregon where he found a job at a boatyard. Casey found that he loved boats but wanted to be capable of more than bottom painting. Hopefully he's be able to learn a thing or two about that at the Carpenter's Boat Shop.

Elliot Burrows

Born in California she's also lived in Vermont, and fell pretty hard for Southeast Alaska this summer. She loves seabirds, wild edibles, climbing trees, dancing, and the ocean. Autonomy and wilderness are important to her. She's working on becoming an herbalist and a carpenter and is grateful to be at the Boat Shop which is an extra special place.

A NOSTALGIC MOMENT ON MARSH ISLAND

During this year's fall sailing trip which introduces our apprentices to sailing and maritime skills, I looked out at the anchorage of the boats we had used that day. All six vessels gently tugged on their moorings and it brought a reflective and nostalgic moment. I realized that all the boats had been built or totally rebuilt over a thirty-three year history at the Boat Shop. Fond memories came flooding back of building those beautiful boats and the wonderful apprentices who had shared in their creation and use over the years. It was like seeing an entire history of the Boat Shop at anchor. I felt deeply blessed.



Boats on the mooring off of Marsh Island

MONHEGAN SKIFFS

For thirty-three years the Carpenter's Boat Shop has been building Monhegan skiffs for the fishermen of the island and for others on the mainland. This week we will be hanging the garboard planks for the fourth Monhegan skiff this year. The light, half inch cedar has a beveled gain to bring the planking in flush at the stem and the transom. The cross planked rocker bottom makes the hull more rigid, while keeping the bottom open for easy bailing and movement. It's built lightweight so a fisherman can pull it up on the beach. All my life I've seen these fair lines come together to form a handsome, seaworthy tender.

The skiff was originally designed and built by Will Stanley who came to Monhegan in the late 1890's to assist his father William who was the Light House keeper. Will was a master carpenter and built many houses on the Island including the Island Inn and many of the cottages that adorn the island architectural landscape. It was Will Stanley who first designed and built the skiff probably at the turn of the twentieth century.

Will Stanley and his wife Minnie had five children and it was their son Banes who continued building the skiffs. He then passed the tradition on to his son Ronnie who began building at the close of World War II. Ronnie built the skiffs until he went blind in the late 1970's



Nate and Stephen rowing Monhegan Island skiffs

when Ruth and Bobby Ives were the school teachers on the Island. When Bobby and Ruth started the Boat Shop, Ronnie asked if they would ever continue building the skiffs for the Monhegan fishermen. Bobby said that he would be "honored to do it." Ronnie gave Bobby a few patterns and an old bevel board and that is why the Boat Shop has been building the skiffs for over thirty-three years.

This year we built a rugged skiff out of oak and tamarack, for the pilot who takes tankers in and out of Rockland Harbor. He needed a tender that would get him out to his lobster boat in any kind of weather. The

Mohegan skiff is designed to be extra seaworthy with its eleven inches of rocker bottom, to keep the bow out of the heavy seas that surge through the exposed harbor between the island and Manana. With two rowing stations, a person can row from the forward station while the second person sits in the stern to maintain a level waterline. It's been a great boat for the apprentices to learn the elements of woodworking, but the greatest part is watching them row each boat for the first time. It slides through the water with the ease and grace of an eider duck. It's a pleasure carrying on a design and tradition as salty as the waters she was meant for.

•Jonathan Ives



Early painting of Monhegan skiffs (circa 1910)

IT ALL STARTED WITH A PEAPOD

In 1975, Ruth and I moved to Muscongus Island off Round Pond village. We had been the teachers and ministers on Monhegan Island for two years, but in the Spring of 1975 we purchased an old farm on Muscongus Island and in June moved in. Each week we would take our dory across Muscongus Sound into Round Pond to get supplies and serve a little church in Sheepscot village. After services we would motor our dory back to the island. During the winter our old Evinrude outboard would often have problems starting. We would crank and crank, but the ten degree weather in February was just not conducive to easy starting. Often I would find myself saying to Ruth, "If we only had a good row boat we'd be there by now." It was that sentiment that initiated my building our first row boat on Muscongus Island in the summer of 1976. Edward Sailer, a Norwegian boat builder who became my teacher and mentor, helped me get started on a fourteen-foot lap strake peapod in the summer of 1976. Ruth and I worked on it together and finally launched it just before Christmas. It was this boat that we rowed back and forth in our remaining years on the island.

Although I had repaired and worked on many boats before that, it was the peapod (pictured above) that started my



formal career in boat building and which eventually led to the creation of the Carpenter's Boat Shop. Now thirty-five years later, it is that same peapod we are still rowing in Round Pond Harbor.

•Robert Ives

PHOTOS



Emily and Allie
launching a skiff



Elliot building
a chair

Jay, Christina +
Stephen pressing
apples



SUMMER WOODWORKING CLASSES

AT THE CARPENTER'S BOAT SHOP - 2012

Shaker Furniture

Dates: June 21-26, 2012

Instructor: Chris Becksvort

Boat Building for Clergy

Dates: June 25-29, 2012

Instructors: Kim Hoare and Robert Ives

Young People's Wood Working

(Ages 10-14)

Dates: July 2-6, 2012

Instructor: Maryah Smith-Overman

Basking Ridge Week

Dates: July 7 -15, 2012

Woman's Wood Working – 101

Dates: July 16-20, 2012

Instructor: Maryah Smith-Overman

Windsor Chair Building

Dates July 23-27, 2012

Instructor: Robert Elliott

Custom Furniture Building

Dates: August 6-10, 2012

Instructor: Jim Macdonald



Basic Boat Building

Dates: August 20-24, 2012

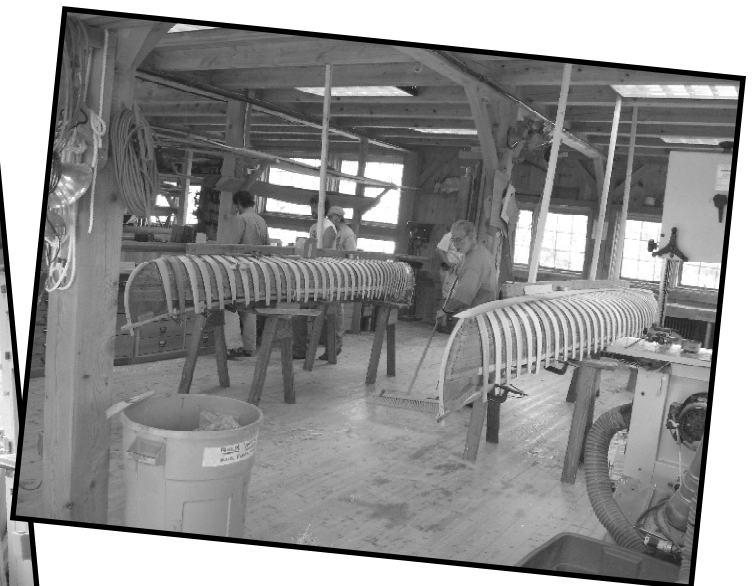
Instructor: Douglas Brooks

Canoe Building

Dates August 27 – Sept 1, 2012

Instructor: Rollin Thurlow

(Courses subject to change)



FRIENDS OF THE BOAT SHOP

This is the thirty-third year of The Carpenter's Boat Shop. Although its most visible aspect is the Apprenticeship Program for our ten apprentices who come each year, there are many other programs that exist side by side that all have a vital life. One of these programs is the Friends of the Boat Shop or FOB's without whom we could not exist. This year alone the FOB's contributed over 5,000 hours of work, carpentry, advice, teaching and many other talents and activities. So who are these people and what do they do?

Many are retired neighbors who come in a few hours or many days a week and go about doing work that furthers the ministry and mission of the Boat Shop. For



Dick Palmer repairing skiffs



Bob Kline sawing lumber

example Bob Kline sawed over 10,000 feet of lumber on our sawmill. Matt Filler and Penny Moodey produced almost \$5,000 dollars for the Boat Shop by building Adirondack chairs. Bill Schwanemann makes cherry Shaker candle stands. Mariellen Whelan has made many products, but most recently children's toy steam shovel diggers. Klaus Heimann teaches our apprentices sewing. Dick Palmer, Ted Smith, Rick Eble, and Bill Thomas all work on our boats down in the Restoration Shop. Ken Smith built our cupola on the Work Shop and is now finishing the Boat Barn. Karen and Walter Wales continue to offer teaching in various areas of wood working and naval architecture. Robert Sutherland comes in from Mobius each week to help with necessary chores, raking leaves and stacking fire wood. And Elaine Latham not only cooks donuts every Wednesday for tea break, but faithfully works on boats and any job necessary throughout the shop. The work and talents that our Friends bring to the Boat Shop is invaluable. Their friendship, wisdom and good cheer is immeasurable.

•Robert Ives

The Carpenter's Boat Shop

440 Old County Road

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NEWSLETTER - FALL 2011

WISH LIST

- *Any wooden or fiberglass boat for oar and sail
- *Boat building and wood working books for our library
- *18 volt Lithium-Ion 1/2" Makita driver drill (\$235)
- *New electric kitchen stove (\$500)
- *Exhaust fan for white farmhouse kitchen range
- *Jet edge sander (\$950)
- *Brush Hog - 5" mowing unit (\$1,450)
- *Air Rhino VS carbon air filter for the Restoration Shop (\$2,500)
- *Dust collection for the old Boat Shop (\$2,400)



FOR SALE

21' Mako w/ 200hp Evinrude	\$8,500 reduced
27' Starwind sloop fiberglass	\$6,000 reduced
26' Pearson sloop	\$2,000
13' sailing Catspaw dinghy	\$7,600 Reduced
Monhegan Island skiffs	\$1550-2000
Doug Hylan 13' Beach Pea peapod	\$4,600
Single Adirondack chairs	\$175
Double Adirondack chairs	\$350
Baby boat cradles	\$750
Shaker ladder back chairs	\$300

Please call to place an order or to see what we might have ready.



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