

Spring, 2019

RiversWest

We inspire people to build and use low-impact boats

News



Family Boat Build and Wooden Boat Show

**Coming up
June 29-30**



Sunday Afternoon, June 30:

- ◆ **12 New Boats Being Launched**
- ◆ **Wooden Boat Show**
- ◆ **Beer garden and food**
- ◆ **Live Music**
- ◆ **Kid's Boat Building**



The President's Corner

The past year has been a successful one for RW. We have had multiple boats built, and even more repaired, restored or refurbished. And even more are in progress right now. Having a busy, active shop is a delight!

I'd like to highlight a couple of these projects in particular: First, Oona Lawson's shell. Oona is building a 22' shell in half of bay 3. She started the project the summer prior to her Senior year in High School and the boat is nearing completion. This is her Senior project. Oona found out that this fall, she will attend University of Wisconsin at Madison on a rowing scholarship! Drop in, check on her progress and wish her well!

Another boat in the shop is the Miracle Dinghy project. This is a project boat from the RW "donated inventory." A sailing dinghy classic, this was a partially completed boat whose owner/builder had lost momentum. When taken down from the rafters, it had an impressive coating of dust! Chuck Stuckey, Russ Smith and John Bouwsma decided the Miracle should sail! They worked on it over the winter and one day I opened the shop door and the hull had turned yellow! A couple of weeks later the deck turned green! A few weekends ago the boat was rigged in the parking lot. Ready to go sailing which



Mark Ramsby

will happen at the June 15th Messabout at Hagg Lake!

Recently, the Board approved the donation of the Hall Templeton and its trailer to the Sea Scouts. It hadn't been used by RiversWest in years and we thought it deserved a new life.

The boat is being fitted out as a pulling boat and will be rowed by Sea Scouts in competition with other Seas Scout Bases. That's pretty exciting!

As I write this, the production of the Family Boat Build kits are nearing completion. As the build finished last year, we had built over

100 boats at this event. Every year RiversWest Members make improvements to the kits, improvements to the boats, and every year they get just a little bit better. We also have a good time doing it! As I finished this column, we found out that the Oregon Youth Sailing Foundation has joined with Willamette Sailing Club and RiversWest to co-sponsor the Family Boat Build and 2019 Portland Wooden Boat Festival. We welcome OYSF to the event and thank them for their support!

May you lower your anchor amid peace and good friends!

Mark



Fund Raising Activities

Capital Campaign 2017/2018

For several years we have been fretting about the possibility of losing our tenancy at our present Boat Shop. As a result we formed a committee to begin raising money to finance a move. Our first preference would be to buy a building. It is probably not realistic to think of getting a place on the water, but we do not actually use the water access we have now very much anyway. An exact set of requirements is being worked on; if you have ideas about that please contact John Bouwsma or Mark Ramsby.

We have been soliciting members and corporations for contributions. While we have met with some success in this we are still a long way from having enough to buy a building. Here is our current status:

Total Donations Since 2016-01-01

Corporate Donations:	\$7,950
Member Donations:	\$7,997
NonMember Donations:	\$3,810
Trusts :	\$14,000
Total Capital fund:	\$33,757

Fred Meyer Rewards Program. . .

A Painless way to contribute to RiversWest

RiversWest is a non-profit organization that does a lot of good things for the Oregon Sustainable Boating Community. RiversWest has qualified as a Non-Profit Partner of the Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program. This is a great opportunity to support RiversWest when you make purchases at your local Fred Meyer store. Here is how it works:

If you have a Fred Meyer Rewards account, you can link your account to RiversWest. At the end of each quarter, RiversWest will get a donation from Fred Meyer based upon your purchases. **This does not affect your rewards, but is on top of it.** It is a charitable donation to qualifying non-profits from Fred Meyer

Need to sign up for a Fred Meyer Rewards account?

<https://www.fredmeyer.com/account/create??redirectUrl=/account/communityrewards/>

To subscribe, follow this link: <https://www.fredmeyer.com/signin?redirectUrl=/account/communityrewards/> Sign in and select RiversWest as your designated non-profit. It's that simple.

Do you have questions? <https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-frequently-asked-questions>.



Calm Water Coalition

The Calm Water Coalition was formed to address the use of boats specifically designed to throw large, steep wakes. These boats are used for wake sports, but also introduce hazards to small boats as well as docks, houseboats and other structures onshore along the banks of the Willamette River. RiversWest joined the Calm Water Coalition in order to address the issue of hazards to small boats on a relatively small waterway.

Many of your RiversWest officers, board and members have attended planning meetings, testified before the Marine Board, written letters and lobbied our State Representatives and Senators. We have watched it go through committee and on to each house of the State Legislature. The resulting legislation, HB 2351 has recently been approved by both houses of the Oregon Legislature and is awaiting Governor Brown's signature. Hopefully, by the time you read this, Governor Kate Brown will have signed the bill into law.

Renee Morgan is the real hero of this story at the Calm Water Coalition. Recently she received this email:

Mark Ramsby

Congratulations and thank you!

We are thrilled that HB 2351 passed the Senate and is now headed to the Governor's desk. Our office is so appreciative of all the time you dedicated to make this a reality. We absolutely could not have done this without your persistent, dedicated support. Please pass along our thanks to the rest of the coalition.

Thanks again!

Best,

*Mackenzie Carroll, Legislative Assistant
Representative Karin Power | Oregon House
District 41*

The result of this is a safer Willamette River for small boaters like us. It also protects the people living on the river with docks, houseboats and other structures as well as the riparian environment. The wake boats will move to larger, more appropriate waterways.

So let's give three cheers to the work of Renee and our legislature in passing this bill so important to allowing us to continue enjoying the use of our small boats on the Willamette, one of the magnificent rivers of our city.

Workshops and Demos

We have exciting plans for Workshops and demos for the coming year. We have found that our demos are more widely attended and appreciated than hands-on classes, so we are having as many of them as possible.

Our main focus is on shop safety in using the power tools in our shop. But we also have several demos on general woodworking techniques, and boat related techniques. Here is the schedule, which is also available on our website, at www.riverswest.org

We are always open to suggestions; if you have something you would be willing to demonstrate contact John@Bouwsma.net or any board member.

List of Upcoming Demos:

- 1) Heat Treating metal June 1
- 2) Shop Orientation for new members (4 times)
- 3) Safety procedures for specific power tools
- 4) Sail Sewing by machine June 20
- 5) Making a ship in a bottle June 27
- 6) Greenland Paddle making TBD
- 7) Sharpening TBD
- 8) Hand Tool Joinery TBD



RiversWest Annual Meeting

The RiversWest Annual Membership Meeting was held on Saturday, April 27 at the Rose City Yacht Club, attended by around 40 people. After a fine dinner of pizza and salad, the meeting commenced with the election of the Board. For the most part the board did not change, but these are the people who constitute the new board:

Mark Ramsby, President

Craig Bryant, Treasurer

Art Wilson, Secretary

Chuck Stuckey, Family boat Build Coordinator

John Bouwsma, Newsletter Coordinator

John Ost, Shop Manager

Charlie Ehm, Librarian

Bruce Goodrich, Ass't Librarian

John Whitehouse, Mailing List Coordinator

Mitch West Donations coordinator

Russ Smith

Bob Meehan

Mike Simmons

Steve Najjar

These Board members were approved unanimously.

Following this our guest speaker, Laura Jackson, a member of the Oregon Marine Board representing small boaters, gave a talk about the Calm Water Coalition and the various bills in the Oregon Legislature regarding damage to the shoreline and danger to small boats posed by wakeboard boats. For more information see the article on the facing page.

Shop Tours

We have a new program of shop tours of members' shops. So far we have had two, both were very well attended and appreciated. We have one more in the works, Charlie Ehm's shop, on July 13th. These shop tours provide an excellent opportunity for members to get ideas for their own shops, and for members to become better acquainted with what each of us is doing in their own shop, and what we might be able to get a little bit of help with. Anyone willing to participate by opening up their shop for a few hours should contact John Bouwsma.

Membership Renewals:

If you have not yet renewed your membership, this would be a great time to do it! As we do every year, we have just changed the combination to the lock on the door to the Boat Shop and sent it out to all paid-up members who have also signed a liability waiver.

The membership fee for adults is \$75/year, for students it's \$50. To renew with a credit card using PayPal, go to <http://www.riverswest.org/join-us.html>

- 1. We are asking everyone who uses the shop to sign a liability waiver, only once, not every year.**
If we don't have your signed waiver, we will need it

with the membership payment before you can use the shop.

- 2. Memberships run from the first of the year and expire at the end of the year.**
Your payment will keep your membership current through the end of 2019. Each year in January, we change the lock, and will notify you of the combination when we have a liability form and your renewal.

Membership entitles you to the use of the shop, the opportunity to rent a boat-building bay, group activities, reduced-rate classes throughout the year and discounts on purchases at Crosscut Lumber and other shops.



Building a Guillemot Cedar Strip Kayak

Ten years ago, after building my first cedar strip canoe, I set up the forms to make a kayak. I lofted the plans from the book “Building a Cedar Strip Kayak” by Nick



Schade. Cut out the plywood forms, mounted them on a 2” by 4” plywood strongback, and then left it to sit under a shed roof. In the meantime I worked on a lot of other boats, some for other people, and upgraded some old existing kayaks, such as Pygmy designs. But last year, I finally decided it was now or never to do a boat from scratch, and got the kayak form down into my shop. It looked like nothing more than a dinosaur or lizard skeleton, waiting to be finished. Remarkably, having been moved around a lot, the forms were still straight and true.

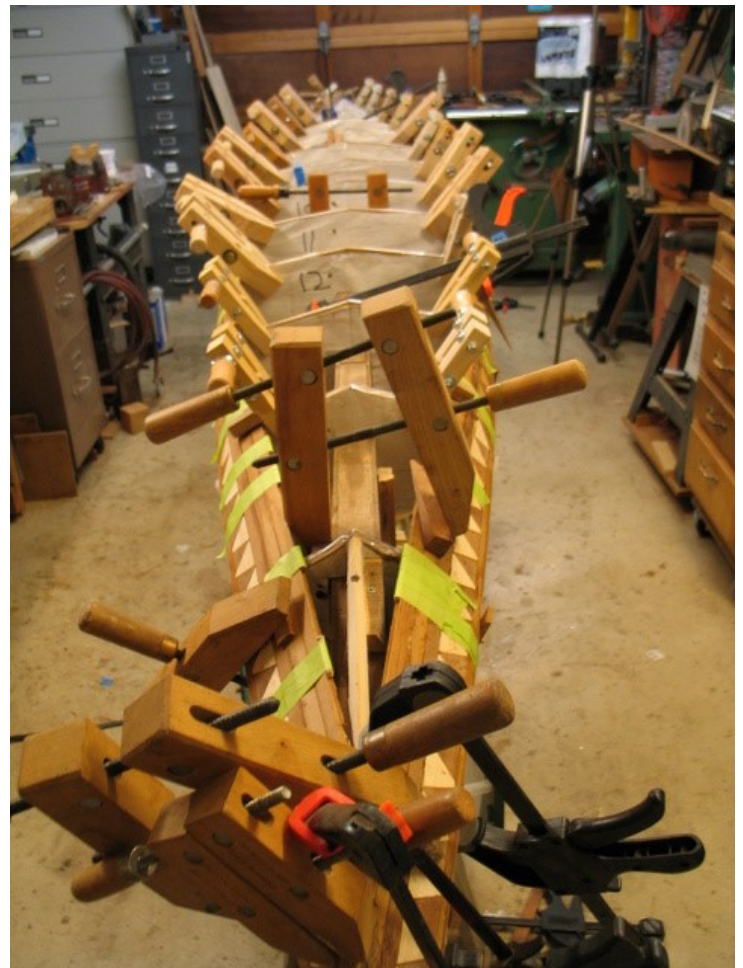
I like to use bead-and-cove cedar strips, which facilitate wrapping the strips around a tight bilge. And for this boat I would need them. In fact, some of the 3/4” wide strips were too fat to turn the edge, so I ripped some 1/2” and 3/8” boards and milled the bead and cove. For the first few planks on the form, I use full-length strips to establish the sweeping curve. After that I can use shorter pieces, either butted end-to-end, or as inlaid pattern pieces. I lay up the patterns on the existing planks with glue on the edges, balancing the pieces in the upturned cove of the previous strip. So as to avoid leaving staple marks, I clamp and glue each run of strips and let the wood glue dry for at least an hour before adding the next row. It’s

John Whitehouse

fun to interweave strips of different colors, and cedar has a remarkable range of colors, from chocolate brown to light gold.

I start at the sheer line and work my way down to the center of the hull. Then I plane the edges of the wood and sand, adding a layer of 4 oz fiberglass and epoxy. This stabilizes the hull so I can turn the form over and start laying up the deck of the kayak. It’s about this point that I realize building a kayak is as much work as building *two* canoes, one upside down on the other.

In laying up the deck, where people can see the boat at its best, I experiment with curved patterns. I steam-bent some walnut and formed the pieces together to look pleasing on the shape of the boat. On the forward deck, I routed out grooves in the cedar planks, gluing in the wal-



Guillemot Kayak Cont'd

nut and some Sitka spruce for details. I call this inlaid. On the rear deck, I formed some patterns of bent walnut and spruce directly on the forms. Then I filled in cedar planks to fit the shapes around the patterns. I call this process laid-in.

Then the deck is planed, sanded and 'glassed on the outside. Both halves of the boat are now strong enough to support themselves on cradles, and I proceeded to plane, sand and 'glass the interiors. At this point I cut out the shape of the cockpit and the parts that would become hatch covers.

Besides the patterns on the deck, there is a lot of other detail work. Many little pieces of wood form the edge of the cockpit, the coaming around the cockpit, the stand-offs and shelves that hold the cut-out hatches, and interior brackets. All these have to be glued in place before the deck is mounted on the hull. In fact, by the time I was done, I estimated there were over 900 individual pieces of

wood all glued together, to form this boat. I glassed and varnished as much of the interior as I could while the boat was still in two halves.

I was worried that fitting the deck to the hull would be difficult, but following the directions in Schade's book, it turned out to go fairly smoothly. 2" fiberglass tape sealed the inside of the seam, and I laid strips of 4 oz. fiberglass over the outside edges. Then all was sanded again and varnished.

Finally, about 10 years and six months after first setting up the forms, I had a kayak. Waiting for warm weather, I got it in the water in April, 2019. With strong currents and wind-driven waves, the boat weather-cocks pretty badly. So I've since added a walnut skeg at the rear of the boat, and plan to test and modify it until I'm happy with the results. I've also built a Greenland paddle and plan to compare it with my existing kayak paddles. It's a lot of fun!



RiversWest Small Craft Center

Open House - First and Third Saturdays

Our boat shop is open to visitors on the first and third Saturday of every month. Stop by in the morning and have a free cup of coffee and a donut. Take the opportunity to meet the members who are a friendly group of boating



enthusiasts. We will take you on a tour of our facility which includes our wood shop, boat building spaces which are available for members to rent and our livery of boats. You can even browse through our extensive lending library including our collection of WoodenBoat Magazines.

Boat Shop

Our boat shop is equipped with the necessary equipment to build your boat. Many members who are building their boats at home take advantage of our complete wood shop, saving the cost of renting or purchasing their own tools. Fellow



members can provide free advice and helping hands when you need it.

Bay Rentals

Our boat shop is configured with bays that members can use for restoring or building their dream boat. Available for rent on a monthly basis, these bays, 10 x 23 feet, offer a dedicated workspace with light, electrical power and immediate access to our



wood shop. And best of all, there are plenty of friendly and experienced craftsmen available to offer advice on the techniques of building a boat.

When you're a member of RiversWest, you don't need to be a shipwright, own a shop full of tools or have a large space at home to build your dream boat. We have it all.

riverswest.org

Crater Lake Boats Still Available

We are still looking for good homes to adopt the remaining two Crater lake Boats. We sold one several years ago; we thought we had a deal for the other two but it fell through at the last minute. We hope that these boats will have a new life somewhere, they are beautifully designed and built, with solid mahogany planking. These boats would make truly luxurious cabin cruisers.



They can be viewed underneath the ramp leading to the Hawthorn Bridge, at Salmon and Water Streets. If you want to get a close look inside the fence, please contact a board member.



Catlin Gable Skin-on-Frame Currach

John Ost

This boat, being built in the afterschool elementary woodshop club at Catlin Gabel this spring, with help from RiversWest member John Ost, is an Irish currach. (Currachs were historically covered with oak tannin cured ox hides. A currach is a boat that is rowed or sailed and required more than one ox hide to cover it. A coracle is a different style that is generally covered with one ox hide and is



paddled.) This boat will be 13 1/2 feet long. The boats' length and beam are built by freeform building the double gunnels first. This boat is made from green Oregon white

oak. The aft portion with the thwarts was built first.

The bow section was formed by steam bending the 1 x 2s over a mold. The bow section is about 1/3 the length of the boat. The aft ends of the bow section were scarfed and bolted to the main body of the boat.



Next the stem and inner keel were made and sandwiched between the gunnels.

The ribs are made of hazelnut withies (suckers). 3/4 inch holes were drilled at

six inch intervals in the lower gunnels, then appropriate sections of withies were cold bent as green wood into the holes, keeping them under the inner keel, one withy from each side, overlapping in the middle at the bottom of the boat. The last picture with the instructor, Ric Fry, is the

boat after all the ribs have been installed.

Yet to be completed is lashing on stringers and covering the boat with 8-1/2 ounce ballistic nylon and waterproofing it.



2019 Portland Wooden Boat Festival



When: June 30, 2019; 10 AM - 4 PM

Where: Willamette Sailing Club, 3883 SW Beaver Ave, Portland, OR

Admission: Free

Whats going on:

- Wooden boats from local builders and owners
- Food Service
- Beer Garden
- Live Music
- Kid's Model Boatbuilding
- Boat Rides & Paddleboards
- Family Boat Building & Launch
- Silent Auction of a restored Bevins Skiff

Display Your Boat:

- Please email johnwhitehouse1@man.com to register
- Use the Subject Line: "WBF 2019 Registration"
- There is no cost, but your boat must be registered to participate
- We have room for boats on the grounds or in the water

Come Join the FUN!

<http://www.riverswest.org/2019-wbf.html>

www.willamettesailingclub.com



Another Donation Comes to Life

Chuck Stuckey

Several years ago we got a call from the Banasky family about a partially built boat their father started but couldn't finish before he passed away. Stored in a under a tarp for a decade or more, it really needed to go. A few of us went and looked at it and realized her potential. She had a few "old school" building methods, but the gentleman had done a good job building her. The hull was complete, but still rough and needed finishing. Lucky for us it came with a brand new aluminum mast and boom.



So we went and picked her up. And in true RiversWest fashion we put her up in the rafters where she collected dust for several more years. A few of us, myself, John Bouwsma, and Russ Smith, vowed to finish her. Over the course of a year we sanded the hull and deck, removed some filler material which seemed ill chosen, and prepared her for paint. The building plans were with the bag the family gave us so we were able to check what needed to be done. One thing not with her was the centerboard, which we built to the plans and installed. A rudder and tiller was included, so she now had all of her wood. Hardware was another story.



All the little pieces that go with standing rigging, sail handling, and mounting the rudder had to be found. I got some from my bag of "stuff" but had to purchase the rest. We had some old sails donated from Willamette Sailing Club some years back. A set from a 420 almost fit perfectly, Russ and I lowered the boom fitting a few inches and now they fit. I chose to paint the hull a bright yellow and the deck U of Oregon green. We started

calling her the Duck Boat.

Another problem was a trailer. We had one with two flat tires and a lot of unusable rollers. Russ redid the hubs and bearings, I got two new wheels and we built some bunks and added a winch. Now all that's left is to go sailing, which we are sure to do on June 15th at Hagg Lake. She is a Miracle dinghy, a larger version of well known Mirror Dinghy. She is an old design, very popular in the UK where she is still class raced to this day. We look forward to getting her wet. Hopefully we can find a buyer at this year's Festival. And then we can move on to the next "donated" project. Thanks to John B. and Russ.



Student \$50 General Membership \$75

Donations: \$50 \$100 \$250 Other\$ _____

Annual dues and donations to RiversWest qualify for tax deductions. Ask your tax advisor.

*Please return the following with your check to the address below,
or sign up online at riverswest.org*

New member Renewing member Change of information Additional donation

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home phone _____ Day/Cell phone _____

E-mail address: _____

Membership Benefits:

Members receive the RiversWest newsletter

Access to RiversWest boat shop and space rentals

Access to all RiversWest educational programs

Invitation to all RiversWest boating and social functions

**RiversWest Small Craft Center Inc.
P.O. Box 19234, Portland, OR 97280**

Membership Form

RiversWest is a non-profit membership organization whose mission is to encourage personal involvement in the construction of small recreational wooden craft and their accessories.

RiversWest Board

Officers:

Mark Ramsby, President:

president@riverswest.org

Craig Bryant, Treasurer & Web Mgr:

treasurer@riverswest.org

website@riverswest.org

Art Wilson, Secretary:

secretary@riverswest.org

Directors:

John Whitehouse Membership Coord

John Ost Shop Mgr

Charlie Ehm Librarian

Bruce Goodrich Ass't Librarian

John Bouwsma Newsletter, Demos

Mitch West Donations Coordinator

Chuck Stuckey Family Boat Build

Russ Smith

Bob Meehan

Steve Najjar

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