



BIG TREE BOATING ASSOCIATION

# Plain Sailing

Volume 25 Spring 2021



## Sailing Director's Report *by Katie Wuori*

Summer of 2020 held many challenges and adaptations to the Big Tree Boating Program. The goal: To be open and provide an activity suitable for the mental and physical well-being while keeping people healthy. I can confidently say we achieved it. The instructors continued to be flexible, upbeat, and provide creative lessons from afar. Since we didn't have as many people sailing, their schedules were ever-changing, and I truly appreciate their dedication to the B.T.B. program. Emily Lau, Grace Hartley, Hendrix Lovelett, Nadia Grisaru, Rylee Sienkiewicz, Saskia Grisaru, Sophie Lau, and Yesha Subotincic West are the mainstay of Big Tree.

We had a limited fleet, with four 420's, four lasers, and, to start, four mercuries. We added two more as Mercury's stability became the popular boat of choice. Although our membership numbers were down, the skills gained by those who "rented" a sloop for recreational sailing were unforgettable. The Conover Clan kept the youth excitement alive while we saw a reemergence of adult sailors. The summer's prevailing quote was from those picnicking, swinging, fishing, and swimming from the shore who commented how the boats under sail created the illusion of some normalcy. We were open for six weeks, four days a week, 10:30 - 4:00. The weather was reasonably cooperative, with a few rain showers, a beautiful southwest prevailing wind for most afternoons, and only one thunderstorm that ran us off the water.

This summer ranks the 25th anniversary of Big Tree Boating, which made me realize a whole generation of islanders doesn't know the island without a sailing school. Like many of us, this winter was a time to reflect, remember when Seal Harbor held only "The Owl" and Earl Durkee's lobster boat. There was an age-marked tradition to jump off Mosley's Dock (single dock with one rowboat). When the seals chased millions of poggies onto the Big Tree Beach, and the cove was quiet. This has changed, and the hubbub of laughter, splashes, and happy faces, young and old, is something for Seal Harbor to celebrate. The board has decided to postpone an in-person celebration as the summer's restrictions are unbeknownst at the moment, and we want to be diligent with safety.

It does look like the programming at Big Tree will return to a schedule closer to normal. We will be open six days a week with staggered starts for class times. As the snow melts, the Maine CDC releases guidelines for summer programming, and the Islesboro COVID team interprets them for what is best for Islesboro, we will release details.

Until then, enjoy the pages of our 25th newsletter, and visit our updated website [bigtreeboating.org](http://bigtreeboating.org).



*Dave Grisaru, director & Katie Wuori first sailing instructor 1997*



*Mike Horn, director for many, many years!*



*Patrick DiLalla director after Mike*



*Katie Wuori, director making it work, even during a pandemic!*



## Sailor of the Summer

Harper Conover's laughter, compassion for others, and natural sailing abilities made him a perfect choice for 2020 'Sailor of the Summer'.

Families came out for the end of the season award presentations and some chocolate cake!



## Dudley Prizes

Prizes are awarded to individuals who have distinguished themselves in some fashion. In 2020, Dudley Prizes were awarded to:

**Ken Smith and Travis Stearns** - Trailer Guru  
**Nathaniel Reinholt** - The Most Determined "Iron's Clad Sailor"

**Jaycob Zollman** - 0 to 420 in four weeks!  
**Paula Mirk** - Being an Even Keeled Solo Master  
**Toby Conover** - The Best Single-Handed Sailor in the Single-Handed Boats

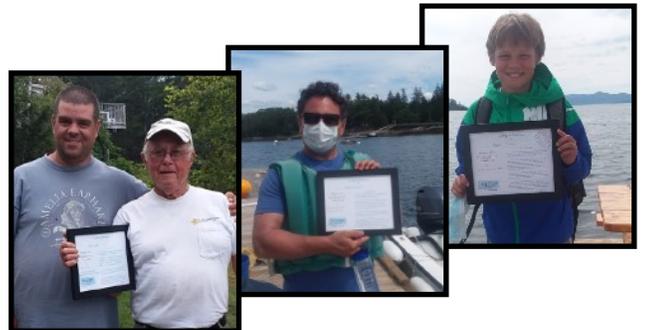
## How to Get Information & Sign up for Classes

At the head of Mosley's Dock, there is an information board for Big Tree Boating. Unlatch the hook and take a newsletter; inside is the registration and medical form. Fill it out and mail it to us at: PO Box 273, Islesboro, ME 04848. You can also visit [bigtreeboating.org](http://bigtreeboating.org) and fill out the forms online.

Filling out this form does not guarantee a spot for a specific class and week. If you choose to register online, it is imperative you do so BEFORE 5:00 pm on Sunday. We do not have internet access on the float, and class rosters/recreational sailing times are set according to the information Katie has at 5:00 pm Sundays.

Our Facebook Page and an Instagram account will keep you up to date on any changes we may need to make during the weeks Big Tree is open. If you have questions and want a quick answer, call the BTB phone 207-691-0197 (June 1 - August 31). If it can wait for a day email us at [bigtreeboating@gmail.com](mailto:bigtreeboating@gmail.com) (checked at least once a day in-season and bi-weekly in the off season).

Cash or check payments can be made directly to Katie or mail a check to PO Box 273, Islesboro, ME 04848. See registration forms for details. Big Tree Boating feels strongly that no one should not sail due to a lack of funds. There are scholarships available. See Katie for more information.



## Recreational Sailing

BTB encourages recreational sailing weekdays from 10:30 - 4:00 (Fridays until 5:30) and Saturdays from 1:00 - 5:30. (we will close at 4:00 if no one is scheduled to sail). Closed on Sundays. Please call ahead for availability and a time slot as classes take president over recreational boating, and we need to stagger the number of people waiting at Moseley's Dock.

**Requirements to "rent" a sailboat:** You must be a member and have taken a scheduled class or refresher course with a Big Tree Boating Instructor and get their approval.

**Keep your eyes peeled for the next opportunity to purchase Big Tree Boating swag from our pop-up store at [bigtreeboating.org](http://bigtreeboating.org)**



## I'm Signed Up, What's Next?

In the past, once you have mailed in your form, you were set. There was no callback or confirmation. Next year, BTB will hopefully be able to return to that standard. This year, we still follow the safety guidelines set in place by the Maine CDC and the Islesboro COVID team. All the classes are expected to run with staggered start times (To Be Announced). With this in mind, a staff-member from Big Tree Boating will call you by Sunday evening to let you know start times and answer any questions you may have. It is crucial to write down the best phone number to reach you at on your registration form. Classes run for two hours. You will need to dress for the weather, bring some water, a mask, sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, a bathing suit/towel (if under 18 or sailing in a dinghy), and any other personal items needed. In the past, we have had extra clothing and towels on the float to use. We will be unable to do that this summer. Be aware the shack on the float is for instructors and their belongings. You may leave items outside on the float. Instructors ask if people bring phones, turn it off, and leave it on the float during class time. Recreationally sailing, you can carry phones at your own risk.

BTB does its best to keep sailing affordable for all. As you will notice, there has been a price increase for memberships. This is due to the significant rise in Maine's minimum wage over the last five years (up 60%), which was the last time we raised membership fees. A portion of your membership goes directly to the incredibly talented, creative, and dedicated instructors who make up the foundation of Big Tree's success. Classes in the afternoons have returned to Monday - Thursday. Due to the past low numbers, week nine has been cancelled.

\*\*\***Thank you** to Travis Stearns for the use of his "yard"

\*\*\***Thank you** David Leuschen for the use of his garage and outside space for storage of boat gear and the lasers.

\*\*\***Thank you to IME** for the excellent topside paint jobs on three of the Mercuries, the docks and moorings' upkeep and maintenance of the instructor's motor boats.

\*\*\***Thank you to PYY** for being flexible on the launching and hauling of Betsy and the Mercuries!

\*\*\***Thank you to the Harry Brigham Family** for the donation of a Mercury and the expense to upgrade it.



## Board Work Day 2020

Since we did not know if Big Tree would open at all last summer, we did not schedule our annual Work Day. Usually, we ask for volunteer help which is a pillar of Big Tree. Teamwork, pride the fleet, some laughs, and hard-work start with boat maintenance. Thank you Ken Smith, Jon Kerr, and George Evans for uncovering and starting to paint the mercuries' bottoms. Thank you to Emily, Sophie, Finn, Grace, Yesha, Nadia, and Hendrix, who also rolled on some bottom paint. Also, to Terry Wuori, who helped Ken, Jon and George deliver the boats to their prospective destinations (Seal Harbor or PYY).

**Closing Day** Thank you to those that schlep gear up the ramp & into the barn. Thanks to Emily, Nadia, Grace, Deb Greenberg, Liz Grisaru, Mark Fruehauf, Carrie Reed, Peter Willcox, John Rex-Waller, Terry Wuori and Ben Alexander



**Thanks to Yesha Subotincic West** for the fantastic quilt she and the other instructors secretly put together for Katie Wuori as a thank you for figuring out how to keep Big Tree open in the middle of a pandemic.



## Thanks to Major Donors

Those listed below have contributed \$500 or more

Dillon-Dunwalke Trust  
Margie Hardwick  
Priscilla Fort  
Mallory Marshall & Peter Haffenreffer  
Jockey Hollow Foundation  
Palace Head Foundation  
Abby & Henry Wilder  
Meg & Dev Devereaux  
John & Carlisle Rex-Waller  
Philip Ladd and Elaine Fiske  
Roger and Marny Heinen  
Lindsey and John Higginson  
Stephen and Candace Phillips  
Taz and Sue Stafford  
Alix Thorne  
Gayle Jackson  
Bruce & Kerry Claflin  
Marc Schnur  
Joseph Ledbetter  
Philip and Betsy Allen  
Windhover (Houghton) Foundation  
Joe and Judy Kamiski

The following made gifts in kind valued at more than \$500:

Brett Fromson  
Harry Brigham  
Phyllis Collins  
Dudley Ladd

**Work day: Saturday, June 19th 9:00 am at Ken's Boat yard Rain date: June 20th, Please wear old clothes you don't mind getting bottom paint on or wet from launching**

## BTB - Board of Directors

Ben Alexander, President  
Merry Alderman, Treasurer  
Bonnie MacKenzie - Secretary & Newsletter Ed.  
Katie Wuori, Sailing Director  
Ken Smith, Rachel Rolerson-Smith, Mike Horn, George Evans, Jon Kerr, Josh Conover, and Gabe Pendleton



*Betsy Shirley, founder BTB & Dave Grisaru, first director 1997*



*Betsy Shirley's beloved dog, 'Captain Hook'!*



**Big TreeBoating Association**  
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