



Big Tree Boating Association
P.O. Box 273, Islesboro, ME 04848
www.BigTreeBoating.org

25th ANNIVERSARY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In this 25th season, **Big Tree Boating is launching a year-long capital campaign to raise \$125,000** to replace our aging fleet of 420s and Lasers, and to plan for future capital improvements. We have had most of our boats for more than 20 years and it is time for an upgrade. Additionally, we know that there will be floats, motors, sails and other hardware to replace in the coming years. **We have set an ambitious goal for our 25th Anniversary and we hope you can help us get there.**

Our mission

Big Tree Boating is a community sailing program offering classes for all abilities (ages 10 and up) and open to all residents and visitors of Islesboro. The program is designed to empower youth through sailing, teach proper seamanship, respect for the water and a lifelong love of sailing.

Why is our mission important?

Big Tree Boating not only teaches youth sailors of Islesboro hands-on skills that they can utilize in maritime careers, it also encourages a life-long sense of courageousness and confidence that is essential in any field. Learning to sail at Big Tree develops independence and self-confidence, as well as communication and teamwork skills. It's easy to see how the skills learned on the dock to become a level-headed skipper, able to make split-second decisions, can be translated to a lobster boat, the captain's helm, or a board room.

Why this campaign and why now?

Overall, Big Tree Boating is in sound financial health. Our annual giving is robust, the foundation support that we receive is consistent, and we are able to cover our year-to-year costs to run the program through our annual fund and membership fees.

What our annual fund does not cover are the larger capital costs that a community sailing program like BTB needs to plan for: replacing aging boats, new sails, new floats, repairs to motors and dinghies. We don't currently have any safety issues, and these capital improvements aren't urgent, but we see the 25th anniversary as a milestone moment where we have a chance to thoughtfully plan for the next 25 years.

Additionally, the program is growing. With nearly 70 members and 10 instructors on the water this summer, our program is thriving. The youth program is full most every week, and (excitingly) the recreational sailing program is enrolling more and more members each summer as adults want to improve their sailing skills and sail with their children.

Why \$125,000?

It's not just because it had a nice synergy with our 25th anniversary — it's also how the numbers add up for the big purchases we see coming in the next 5 -10 years.

Replacing the 420 Fleet - \$60,000

Replacing Lasers and Mercuries (as needed) - \$20,000

Capital Reserve (Anticipated capital costs in the next 5 - 10 years) - \$45,000

New float (6-9 years)

Repair or replace motors for launch and inflatables

New inflatable/Whaler (needed for safety of the growing program)

My kids aren't in the program. How does this help me?

A positive early learning experience on the water provides economic benefits to the entire community in several ways:

- BTB instills a passion of being on the water that, in turn, promotes interest in maritime related careers.
- Many Big Tree students have used their experience and knowledge from BTB to secure scholarships and successful college-sailing careers.
- Working as a team on the water promotes job skills such as communication, responsibility, level-headedness and professionalism.

The sailors who come through the Big Tree Boating program have proven to be some of our most successful and engaged community members as adults.

Donations may be mailed to:

Big Tree Boating
P.O. Box 273
Islesboro, ME 04848

Give by credit card:

1. Visit bit.ly/DonateBTB
2. Click "SEND"
3. Enter your donation amount and a note

Big Tree Boating is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Donations are tax-deductible. Our EIN number is 01-0511284.

The BTB 25th Anniversary Fundraising Committee

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