



Sailing Director's Report *by Katie Wuori*

The 2021 sailing season started out very blustery, for a week before the program was to open under pre-pandemic guidelines; mother nature had other plans. The wind blew from dawn to dusk and did not allow for a weather window to tow the seven mercuries up from Pendleton Yacht Yard to Seal Harbor until the sunrise of opening day. It was all-hands-on-deck as Betsy and I headed to Gilkey's Harbor at 4:30am for the first four boats. Six hours later, we had the largest crew class ever at BTB with 14 green sailors; all mercury's were used along with a start your dinghies class using five of the six lasers. Week 2 had all of the lasers and mercury's out along with four 420s, and it was a short week as Tropical Storm Elsa shed her torrential downpours. The rest of the summer continued uneventfully as winds slacked, and the instructors continued their unrelenting creativity to keep sailing interest high in glassy waters.

There was a turnover in instructors this summer as Rylee Sienkiewicz kept traditions going with the support of Hendrix Lovett and the busy Lau sisters, Emily and Sophie. Annika Rogers shared her expertise in racing during the race classes. Grace Hartley was a pinch instructor when we needed an extra hand and filled in as director so I could return to Stratton School, Stratton Maine (where I work in the winter) for a New England Garden to School Workshop, to welcome Food Corp service member, and help construct the three-season growing dome. Thank you, Grace! Tobias Conover quickly learned the ropes of what being a BTB instructor was all about and soon found his jive teaching and supporting the junior instructors. Fiona Rooney also taught sailing near the end of the season. We had a large group of junior instructors, some, whose age and teaching style earned themselves a place on payroll by the end of the summer: Ginger Anderson-Willis, Harper Conover, Jackson Cleveland, Luke Durkee, Matt Britton, and Robert Conover. This upcoming summer, we will be saying goodbye to the Lau sisters, Grace and Fiona, and adding Lulu Louchheim, whose family recently moved to Islesboro (she is also enrolled in Bowdoin College and races on their sailing team).

We also had some turnover at the board level. Lindsey Higginson, President of BTB for 23 years, and Phillip Ladd, Treasurer for 25 years, decided to retire from their positions while staying active on the board. I want to thank them for their endless hours and expertise in BTB. Taking their place is Ben Alexander as President and Merry Alderman as Treasurer. Ben and Merry have strong island ties, and their enthusiasm for getting people out on the water is very welcome. Their first monumental task was a fundraising campaign for the 25 years - the goal - to replace the aging fleet of lasers and 420s. They tackled this task with gusto, and their hard work has landed us brand new 420's and lasers, which will appear this summer on the BTB floats. This is very exciting as most of the present fleet is well over 20 years old.

The last bit of news I have to mention is the celebration on August 3rd for Big Tree Boating's 25th Anniversary and the end of the fundraising campaign. See inside for more information. We look forward to seeing you out on the water!



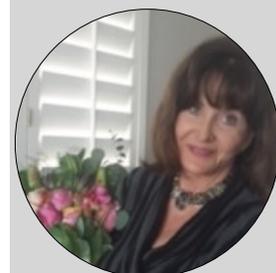
Instructor, Rylee Seinkiewicz



Katie Wuori, Executive Director!



Robert Conover at the helm!



Lindsey Higginson, President for 20+ years!



Sailor of the Summer

Owen Standish was one of the most dedicated and thoughtful sailors we had this summer. He is an astute student and when he wasn't sailing he was fishing, rowing, or bailing out the dinghies at Moseley's dock. Owen has a love of the ocean!



Adults! Big Tree Boating Wants You!

Big Tree Boating is not just for kids. We pride ourselves in taking people where they are at, making them more confident to enjoy boating and the jewels of Penobscot Bay. Not sure you can handle a boat by yourself? Do you have a goal of taking your family (age 10+) out sailing? Would you like to know how to tie a knot you can untie? We can help you figure out where you are and accomplish your seamanship goals. Big Tree understands adult learners have different learning styles than children or young adults, so on the float, you may have some youngsters around, but in the boats, it is you, your instructor, and possibly one other sailor. If you are a novice, CREW is for you. SKIPPER I is for those with some skills but not yet ready to venture out independently. A REFRESHER/RECREATIONAL is a one-on-one, get the spider webs out of the old brain, with an instructor to see where you are at and if you are ready to recreational sail or need to brush up on a few skills. If you are a confident sailor, the REFRESHER/RECREATIONAL is still where you would need to start. This gets you up to speed on the rules and expectations we have at BTB and the idiosyncrasies all boats and programs have that are individual to us. If you would like to meet fellow sailors, the Adult Mix and Mingle would be for you. If you feel competitive, you may want to join the laser racing fleet on Tuesday afternoons. Please reach out with any questions at (207) 691-0197.

Ken's Corner - What's for Sale

Contact Ken at (207) 691-1947 for more information or see Katie out on the float:

420's - \$1800 with dolly; \$1350 without

Laser's - \$500-\$1000

Westerly Maine G.T. 24: \$3000 (moored Seal Harbor)

Bristol 32: \$7000 (moored Seal Harbor)



Dudley Awards

Awards are given to sailors that have distinguished themselves!

Guthrie Smith - amazing laser skills

Finley Conover - "a third of a triple threat"

Callan Rita - "a third of a triple threat"

Jack Gagne - "a third of a triple threat"

Mac Ritsh - "Enthusiasm"

Caleb Reed - "Sailor Ratatouille"

Ethan Heinz - Outstanding seamanship & always lending a hand

Luke Neve - leadership qualities



Islesboro Central School Race Team

by Peter Dilala

ICS had a great year of sailing in the fall of 2021. There were five sailors on the team; Jett Lindelof, Julian Kelly, Alma Bewsher, Matt Britton, and Lucy Kossuth. These sailors participated in five regattas throughout the fall, competing in Portland twice, as well as Rockland, Southwest Harbor and Boothbay. Jett and Julian were the strongest team, placing first in the Greevus Regatta in Portland and competing for the top spot in all three Pen Bay Sailing regattas. Below is a detailed account of the regatta at Southwest Harbor on 10/2/21. ICS sailors participated in the second of three Pen Bay League sailing regattas on October 2, 2021. The regatta was held in Southwest Harbor; participating teams were ICS, Boothbay, Lincoln Academy, Rockland Community Sailing, Camden and MDI. Racing in the "A" fleet were Jett Lindelof and Julian Kelly, with Alma Bewsher and Matt Britton sailing in the "B". The Eagles finished in 3rd place overall, carried by a 1st place finish in the "A" fleet by Jett and Julian. The conditions were light, with wind about 5-10 knots shifting from the north to the west as the day wore on. Jett and Julian were in second for most of the day, until strong finishes in the afternoon propelled them into 1st place. Alma and Matt (both freshman) sailed well in the "b" division. Their top result for the day was a second place finish that resulted from a strong start and fast upwind sailing to hold on. The last race in the Pen Bay League will be held on October 16 in BoothBay Harbor. The year concluded with Alma Bewsher and Lucy Kossuth competing in the Becton Cup (high school girls' championship) in Boothbay Harbor. Although the conditions were extremely light, they competed hard and got some great experience going against the best girl sailors in the state.

*****Thank you** to Travis Stearns for storing all the boats we have for sale in your yard
 *****Thank you** David Leuschen for the use of his garage for storing of spars, sails, lines and other BTB gear
 *****Thank you to IME** for floats, moorings, whalers and inflatable maintenance
 *****Thank you to PYY** for hauling and launching the mercuries, storage and maintenance of Betsy and storage of the extra mercury for the winter
 *****Thank you to Terry Wuori & Chris Lerose** for moving and covering the Mercuries
 *****Thank you to Mark Collins** - for the donation of a whaler
 *****Thank you to the Islesboro Community** for supporting BTB for 25 years and making our fund raiser so successful!
 *****A BIG Thank you to the Town of Islesboro** - for allowing the winter storage of our fleet of 420's and lasers!
 *****Dudley Ladd** (the man behind the Dudley Awards) and for purchasing the books 'Craft of Sail' by Jan Adkins to go with the awards



A BIG Thank You to the Town of Islesboro

There are not many who think or know about the behind the scenes of a water based sailing program such as BTB works, many sailing schools have some sort of land-based home. Big Tree Boating does not. We rely on the gracious land-owners of Islesboro for support and storage in the off-season (9 1/2 months out of the year). Ken and Rachel Smith along with Travis Sterns have been that land-based grace for 25 years, and they finally said, "We would like our view back." The board had several discussions about what and how to store the mercury and 420's, and we finally approached the town. The parking lot across from Moseley's Dock is used heavily during the summer months, but not so much in the off season. Gabe Pendleton (head of the select board) and Earl MacKenzie (Harbor Master for Seal Harbor) were in quick agreement; this storage made sense for the established and growing program to store boats in one section of the town parking lot. For this Big Tree Boating is very thankful.

Work Day #1
Saturday, June 18th 9:00 am at parking lot across from Moseley's Dock. Please wear old clothes you don't mind getting wet or have paint on!

Work Day #2
Friday, August 12th at 1:00 pm at Moseley's Dock to pull out and cover the lasers and 420's - August 20th at the parking lot across from Moseley's Dock, time to be determined to cover the mercuries and other last minute details.

Adult Laser Racing: Tuesday evenings 4:00-6:00 - Call ahead to reserve your boat! Check out our website: bigtreeboating.org

Register for Classes, Recreational Sailing and More! at www.bigtreeboating.org



President's Report by Ben Alexander

I want to begin by expressing my gratitude for having the opportunity to serve as President of the Board of Big Tree Boating. My love for the ocean and boating has grown from a lifetime of visiting Islesboro and I can't imagine a better way to be involved with this amazing community. BTB has become such an important part of the community due to the efforts of many, especially those of Lindsey Higginson and Philip Ladd whose leadership roles on the board have left large shoes to fill. Please join me in thanking them for their years of service.

As we look ahead, I am focused on Big Tree Boating's mission of getting all members of the community on the water. With the support of our generous donors we're now able to offer two weeks of instruction to 10 year-olds attending Islesboro Central School at no cost. We will also expand our recreational sailing hours to the evening and include Tuesday evening laser racing.

Due to the unprecedented support from our members and donors, I am thrilled to report that we will begin the 2022 summer season with a new fleet of boats! Six new 420's are arriving in May thanks to Mike Horn's ongoing commitment to the program. I also had the pleasure of meeting Nadia and Rich Grisaru in Bridgeport, CT over the winter. Shortly thereafter, we purchased 6 new lasers that have just arrived in the US from the manufacturer in Portugal. None of this would have been possible without the amazing efforts of our Treasurer, Merry Alderman, who is leading a very successful capital campaign.

It is truly an exciting time for Big Tree Boating and I hope to see you all at our 25th Anniversary Celebration this summer!



BTB - Board of Directors

Ben Alexander - President

Merry Alderman - Treasurer

Bonnie MacKenzie - Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Katie Wuori - Executive Sailing Director

Ken Smith, Rachel Rolerson-Smith, Mike Horn, George Evans, Josh Conover, Gabe Pendleton, Lindsey Higginson, Philip Ladd and new members Sherry Conover, Richard Grisaru and Harry Brigham

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Lindsey Higginson served as President for 20+ years & Philip Ladd served as Treasurer for 20+ years (with Elaine Fiske working at his side). Big Tree Boating can never thank you enough for all your hard work and dedication. You helped to bring us to where we are today! Always there, never complaining and just seeing us through from year to year! We appreciate you both!



Big TreeBoating Association
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We would like to extend a special thanks to all of our supporters who have donated so generously to Big Tree Boating Association.

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YOU CAN STILL ADD YOUR SUPPORT TO BTB WITH AN ONLINE GIFT: bit.ly/DonateBTB25

This list is reflective of donations received between from July 1, 2021 and March 25, 2022. We apologize if we have misspelled or omitted any of our generous supporters. Thank you all!



25th Anniversary Capital Campaign Update

What an amazing year! Last summer the Big Tree Board of Directors looked at our aging fleet of boats, floats and dinghies and realized that we had some big capital purchases in our future. What better way to raise those funds than with a capital campaign to celebrate the first 25 years of Big Tree Boating and get us rigged and ready to sail into the next 25.

We set a goal to raise \$125,000 before August 2022 which would enable us to replace the 420's (some of which were donated as far back as 1997), purchase 6 new Lasers (the boats that get the most use - and abuse), and also put something away for the floats, motors and dinghies that will need repairs and replacements in the near future. True to form, our members and donors have not disappointed us - we will be sailing new 420's and Lasers THIS SUMMER!

Join us to celebrate Big Tree Boating and the end of the capital campaign on Wednesday, August 3rd, 2022.

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

25 Years of Big Tree Boating

Wednesday, August 3rd, 2022

4:00 PM · 25th ANNIVERSARY REGATTA

Join us on the Big Tree float for tours, a chance to sail one of the new 420's and a series of not-so-serious races. Open to all.

Email bigtreeboating@gmail.com this summer to register

6:00 PM · PIG ROAST AND LIVE AUCTION

Celebrate 25 Years of Big Tree Boating at the Brigham Orchard

The celebration is free and open to everyone.

*Bring your checkbook to the live auction to win a Sea Bag made from BTB sails,
a private sailing lesson with Mike Horn and more!*

Everyone's Invited!

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