



BIG TREE BOATING ASSOCIATION

Plain Sailing

Volume 28 | WINTER 2023

New Format, Same Appeal for Your Generosity

ANNUAL GIVING TO BIG TREE BOATING IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR PROGRAM

Friends of Big Tree Boating,

It's the end of the year, and donation requests are landing in mailboxes across the island and the wider Islesboro community. This year we decided to combine our annual appeal with our (now twice-annual) newsletter. We hope you appreciate the extra news and photos - and continue to give generously to BTB!

With over 70 members, the BTB docks were alive with laughter and learning all summer, even on the days when the wind kicked up and rain fell on our sailors. With a large crew of youth sailors and a growing adult membership, we had both new boats and new sailors on the water — and occasionally in it — almost every day last summer.

As BTB grows, we remain committed to keeping our dues low. This allows all members of the Islesboro community access to our programs. It also means that we rely on annual fundraising to cover a significant portion of our operating costs: instructor salaries, boat maintenance, moorings, insurance and gas, which remains considerably more expensive than the wind.

Please help us bring the love of sailing to Islesboro residents by making a tax-deductible gift to Big Tree Boating this year.

Happy holidays. We look forward to seeing you on the water in 2024!

Merry Alderman Ritsch
Treasurer, Big Tree Boating Association



New Lasers were delivered with help from Jackson Cleveland, Harry Brigham, Katie Quori and Rich Grisaru - Thank you!!

WAYS TO SUPPORT BTB

DONATE BY MAIL

Big Tree Boating
PO Box 273
Islesboro, ME 04848

Make checks payable to Big Tree Boating Association



DONATE ONLINE

We accept donations via a secure
PayPal Account.

www.BigTreeBoating.org/support



Sailor of the Summer

ELIJAH PROVEY - AGE 10



Elijah Provey personifies what we look for in a Sailor of the Summer. At 10 years old, he showed up for the spring work day eager to learn how to scrape, paint and wax boats; he was also one of the last volunteers as we covered the Mercuries for winter. Between work days, Elijah showed a natural ability to handle a boat and read the water. He is always willing to lend a hand,

show someone how to tie a knot or stow a boat correctly. More than once, Elijah hopped out of Betsy, "Just to check one more thing." He is thoughtful, kind, and eager to learn. We look forward to seeing Elijah on the water next summer learning more advanced techniques.

Dudley Awards

The Dudley Awards, sponsored by Dudley Ladd, recognize members whose passion for the ocean, sailing and seamanship skills show great potential (and may go unnoticed by some). The award is presented with a book, "The Craft of Sailing" by Jan Atkins.

Passenger Princess: Isla Dakers

Scrupulous Skipper: Lincoln Wu

Captain Capsize: Bennett Hines

Team Vocalizer: Troy Jacobs-Krajczar

Regatta Extraordinaire: Ford Glotzl

Planing Pilot: Edward Magnay

A Siphon of Sailing Knowledge: Lucy Engstrom

One Lesson and Off you Go! AKA TYC v. BTB champs:

Sebastian Chamier, Scarlett Chamier and Jack Gagne

Thank you!

Travis Stearns, Ken Smith and Tracey Wuori for prep work before work day.

PYY for launching and hauling Mercuries, and taking such good care of Betsy.

IME for launching and hauling inflatables and Whalers, and for keeping the floats and moorings up to par.

Terry Wuori for moving, covering and fixing boats, and for being the man with the solution behind the scenes.

David Leuschen for the continued support of BTB's programming (and the storage space).

Ben Alexander, Rich Grisaru and Jackson Cleveland for delivering the new Lasers safely to the island.

Alex & Kendra Brigham for storing the Mercury trailers.

Yesha Subotincic-West, Grace Hartley and Caleb Read for help with rigging the 420s and Mercuries.

Our Mighty Work Day(s) Crew: Greg Beck, Toby Conover, George Evans, Bonnie MacKenzie, Earl MacKenzie, Lake Lindeloff, Jett Lindeloff, Elijah Provey, Caleb Read, Todd Siekman, Ken Smith, Terry Wuori and Tracey Wuori.

Importantly, we would like to honor the memory of a long-time supporter of BTB, Jamie Houghton, and the generosity of the entire Houghton Family. Thank you.

For "SAIL"

BTB has a number of boats for sale, including a beautiful 26' Capri Catalina in excellent condition.

For those looking for something a little smaller, we have two 420s available - both in great condition.

Please reach out to Ken Smith:

(207) 691-1947 or bigtreeboating@gmail.com

ICS Race Team update: The future is fast!

By Tracey Wuori, Athletic Director, Sailing Coach and BTB Board Member

This fall the Pen Bay Sailing League (PBSL) held races with A and B Divisions on 3/4 mile courses across the midcoast in Rockland, MDI, Boothbay and Castine.

The Islesboro Central School team had mixed results over the season as our young team gained experience in fall waters. Some highlights: **PBSL #1** (in Rockland): ICS was 6th of 8. **PBSL #2** (aka the "Boothbay Drifter" with no wind): ICS was 4th of 8. **PBSL #3** (at MDI with winds 8 to 20 knots): Alma Bewsher placed 2nd in two races and ICS came in 2nd overall.

In the **Becton Cup** in Castine, Alma Bewsher and Samantha Conover placed 4th out of 19 sailors! This annual regatta (also known as the Girls' Doublehanded State Championship) is open to regional middle school and high school girls who sail for their team throughout the season. The Becton Cup was a 1st class event hosted by the MMA Team, with coaches Peter and Patrick DiLalla making it all happen. **The future of ICS Sailing is looking bright!**



The ICS sailing team can't thank Big Tree Boating enough for all their support. BTB makes these experiences possible.

A huge thanks to Mike Horn for his coaching support!

Rain, fog and sun. Yes, we're open.

SAILING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Katie Wuori

Inclement weather is like sailing without wind; it takes patience and skill. The question that I fielded most often this summer was, "Are you are still open and sailing?" The answer was almost always, "Yes!" BTB prides itself on staying open unless the weather conditions are unsafe to be on the water. To master the art of sailing, one must experience all the weather.

Summer of 2023 started wet and foggy, but our ever-positive instructors renamed classes, such as "A Foggy Refresher" and "Skipper Sail by Braille" to keep spirits up. By week three without sun and tired eyes straining through the mist to count sails, we were ready for the sunshine and windy days the rest of the summer brought. **Big Tree had around 70 active members this summer**, with class numbers ebbing and flowing as the sun peeked out.

July 13th was one for the memory books as the new Lasers were (finally) delivered to the island. The new boats brought out some new adult sailors for Tuesday night dinghy racing. Along with some huge puffs, it was great to see former instructors and BTB supporters alike on the water and racing.



Some of the dedicated BTB sailors and instructors in 2023

BTB's Instructors: Rylee Sienkiewicz took on a new leadership role as head instructor and led the 420 racing classes with expertise, a firm shake, and many laughs. **Hendrix Lovett** returned to a senior position with confidence and artistic knowledge of seamanship and the BTB curriculum; he also took and passed the US Sailing Instructor Level 1 certification class hosted by the Tarratine Club this summer. **Jackson Cleveland**, who has sailed for Sail Maine and BTB, brought his dinghy skills and irreplaceable height when moving boats and masts to and



A very wet crew after Tuesday races



Ford Glotzl (on trapeze) and Matt Britton

from hard-to-reach places. **Matt Britton** made students feel at ease in the boats with his passion for sailing and willingness to show members his aptitude. **Ginger Anderson-Ellis** has a soft, easygoing nature, which puts hesitant members at ease. **Caleb Read**, also a newly certificated Level 1 instructor, kept true to his passion for sailing and the ocean by always lending a helpful hand and teaching the skill of sail with easy-going confidence. **Max Muller**, a new instructor promoted from junior instructor this year, amazed members with his knot-tying flair and quietly demanding presence in the

"A low line of shore was visible at first on the right between the movement of the waves and fog, but when we came further, it was lost sight of, and nothing could be seen but the mist curling in the rigging and a small circle of foam."

- John Millington Synge

boats. Our newest junior instructor, **Sammy Bigelow**, brought aptitude, confidence, and passion for the sport, which allowed his natural teaching abilities to shine.

We look forward to having them all return next summer!

Overall, this fall has left BTB in a perfect place. Our Mercuries are in good shape, the new 420s from last year are performing well, and the Lasers finally made it to Seal Harbor. We have a fantastic team of instructors, board members, and the support from the Islesboro community.

Keep an eye out for our May newsletter with details on the 2024 season. Stay warm and enjoy the winter months!

BTB members and supporters: thank you for a great 2023 season!