



BIG TREE BOATING ASSOCIATION

# Plain Sailing

Volume 30 | SPRING 2025

## Take Them Out for a Sail

### SAILING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Katie Wuori

The summer's beautiful weather extended into a gorgeous fall. For me, it also brought the third generation of Big Tree Members out to the float. I will admit, it made me feel a little old when grandparents of new sailors were dropping off their kin and telling stories of how I taught them how to sail. But I am also proud to be part of such a family memory. The confidence of those same children as they show their grandparents how to get into the mercury and pull up the main to "take them out for a sail" certainly puts a smile on my face.

We had about 60 members who used BTB for more than a week and about 15 more "day trippers" who had been regular members of BTB in the past and returned to take a refresher course and bring a non-sailing friend or family out on the water for a day or two. The season started slow, enough for the instructors to get the cobwebs out before being very busy for the 4th of July and on.

The membership numbers decreased in August as families returned to fall sports practice and college. August 9th was the only day we closed for the remains of Hurricane Debbie.

There was a stellar return for instructors, crucial to a solid program. Hendrix Lovett led the way as the head instructor, leading by example, kindness, and support. Caleb Read, one of the program's mainstays, also leads by example and uses his easygoing smile to encourage comfort on the water. Jackson Cleveland is a remarkably skilled heavy-weather sailor who developed the skill of workplace flexibility, an attribute crucial to ever-changing weather and student skills. Maddie Muller continued their quiet way of showing mastery in dinghy sailing and teaching beginners sail-handling skills. Ginger Anderson-Willis, who loves sailing, has a bubbly nature and has a big following of adult sailors, who enjoy her easy-going attitude when teaching and confident answers to questions. Sammy Bigelow is a natural sailor willing to sail with anyone at any time and get them better at the sport he is passionate about. Sebastian Chamier's confidence with dinghies grew this summer, as well as how he taught members the basics of sailing. Ford Glozl learned with his students by showing them his skippering skills as he explained what the crew did and how they did it in the 420s. Alma Brewster came to us this year and worked one day a week to keep her 420 racing skills in check, sharing her knowledge with those in her boat. Caleb Adams-Hull, a new graduate at Bowdin, mentored the instructors and coached students to tweak their 420 racing skills; the little tricks make a big difference. Lucy Engstrom impressed me with how fast she picked up on sailing skills, terms, and how to teach members. Her confidence and love of sailing flourished this summer. I look forward to having this amazing team back next summer!

The big news around the float is that we have a long-term lease agreement with Alex and Kendra Brigham for a storage/clubhouse (name TBD) on the northwest corner of their property. I want to thank every community member of Islesboro for the autonomy this building creates for the program.



# Sailor of the Summer

## Lucy Engstrom



Lucy was a junior instructor at Big Tree this summer and she is everything and more that Big Tree looks for in an instructor, sailor, co-worker and all around great person to be around. Lucy showed seamanship, teamwork, willingness to go outside her comfort zone and try her best. She always had a smile on her face, asked great questions, and spent as much time in a sailboat as she could. She jumped right into teaching (a task that is not required to be a

junior instructor) and took it upon herself to understand sailing theories and how to efficiently sail a boat. I saw Lucy's confidence grow on and off the water this summer. She is hard-working and perspective. Congratulations on being Sailor of the Summer!



"Go Too", our second whaler will be getting a new motor. After troubleshooting and many tows back to the float, it was decided that the engine had reached the end of its very long life.

*"We can't control the wind  
but we can adjust the sails"  
- Ricky Skaggs, songwriter*



## Turning Tides & Board Changes

BTB sadly says goodbye to Merry Alderman-Ritche with a very big THANK YOU for piloting Big Tree into the 21st century, adding MailChimp, Quickbooks, keeping the website updated, and many, many more amenities members of BTB deem convenient.

We enthusiastically welcome long time board members, sailing advocate, and in another lifetime, Operations Officer at a commercial bank, George Evan. Big Tree has relied on George's knowledge of boats for repairs, purchases, and keeping the floats safe for everyone at BTB. He has been an important behind the scenes person for years, and now is taking a more active role in the Big Tree Boating Programming.

## 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.

**David Leuschen** for the continued support of BTB's pro-gramming (and the storage space).

**Ronnie Gallant** for overhauling the mercury trailers and changing the wood to keep the trailers safe

**Alex & Kendra Brigham** for storing the Mercury trailers and the lease of the corner of their property for the storage building and boat storage.

**Terry Wuori** for making new mercury frames for the tarps

**Harry Brigham** for moving the mercury's to and from PYY and onto the new leased property

**Ollie Venezia** for keeping us fiscally organized while we transition treasurers

**Rich Grisaru** for his countless hours and expertise of designing the new BTB building

**Peter Coombs** for doing the ground work for the new building site and having it ready to move the boats to for wintertime storage

**Trevor Dakers** for prepping the site for Peter

## Finding, Long Term, Safe Harbor

After our very successful capital campaign in the summer of 2022, marking our 26th season as a boating program, the board began seriously looking at what Big Tree needed to complete the program's longevity and sustainability. We set aside a nest egg for floats, motors, and sails, three heavy expenditures that cannot be avoided, and we completed the update of our fleet with six new 420s and lasers. It was decided to look for land big enough to store boats on.

In the past, Ken, Rachel Smith, and Travis Sterns allowed BTB to clutter their beautiful ocean view with the hulls. We asked the Town to let us store them in the parking lot across from Mosely's Dock, and Alex and Kendra Brigham stored the trailers in the summertime. We thank all of these people and the community from the bottom of our hearts - because without the boats, we would not have a program for two and a half months a year!

We are enthusiastic to announce that Big Tree Boating and Alex and Kendra Brigham, with the help of Earl MacKenzie, have gone into a long-term lease agreement with the Brighams for the North corner of their property abutting the town parking lot. With much debate and countless hours from Rich Grisaru and Ken Smith, our building (yet to be named) will be built by Shed Solutions in the early spring. Earl MacKenzie cut down trees, Trevor Dakers grinded them up, and Peter Coombs brought his excavator in and leveled out the land to prep for the building. We will outfit it over the summer and move into it in the early fall 2025. So many people have contributed to and supported Big Tree Boating.

**Thank you for giving an establishment to BTB members, the ICS Sailing team, and all our gear.**

# Dudley Awards

George Evans - Board Member volunteer extraordinaire. George helped repair and improve many projects on the BTB float and boats. The large project George took on this summer was to install 3 inch PVC pipes on the laser float to help ease the sliding of the lasers, pulling them in and out of the water, and providing a strip above the float to help protect the self-bailers.



Maggie Blackford - Maggie started sailing at BTB this year, and quickly grasped sailing concepts. She pushed her comfort levels with lasers and is a quick learner. She has a bubbly and inquisitive nature and keen listening skills. Maggie was a joy to teach this season.



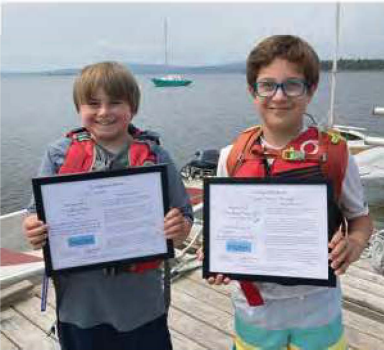
Deirdre Murphy - Setting and accomplishing goals. Deirdre wanted to become more confident in sailing, especially getting the mooring, which she has!

Louie Glotzl - Louie showed up in the afternoons with a helpful and friendly attitude. He also pushed his comfort levels and everyday spent a bit more time in the 420's.

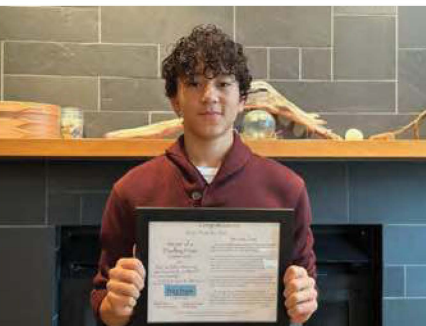
Auden Ferrari - For "fab" sail rolls, curiosity of the art of sailing, and willingness to try dinghies. Although a little hesitant at first, Auden found himself going from lasers to 420's and trapezing in three days.



Elijah Provey - last year sailor of the summer, whose enthusiasm has not waned. He is determined, flexible, helpful, and keeps a ship shape boat. If it wasn't for a few days he was off island, he would have clocked as much time on the float as the instructors. He received this award for most sailed days of any member and absorbing what the instructors were teaching him and putting it into practice.



Eiffion Nelson - our ten year old member who came to BTB as much as he could, mornings and afternoons. He received this award for demonstrating an inquisitive mind and enthusiasm for all things sail. Eiffion found his niche in sailing mercury's - his favorite - spinnaker days.



Arlo Temelko-Post: Also for some stellar sail rolls. Arlo has an unwavering positive attitude and willingness to try new challenges, especially as the wind is ever changing. He also found himself going from a laser to a 420 and trapping in three days.

# ICS Race Team Update: Embracing the Journey

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

In sailing, we learn to adjust our sails to harness the shifting winds, like adapting to our goals and expectations as life takes unexpected turns. This fall, the Islesboro Sailing Team excelled, claiming the top spot in both A and B fleets for the season. We consistently placed in the top five at every regatta, competing across six weekends in Rockland, Boothbay, MDI, and Castine. Alma B. and Rosie B. shone in the A fleet, while Eloise M. and Sophia S. led the B fleet, joined by Luke N. and Ford G., Louie G., our sole eighth-grade sailor, performed admirably. At the last Boothbay regatta, both A and B fleets crossed the finish line together three times in succession, with Eloise skippering the B fleet to outrun all A fleet boats on the course. Trust in one's skills and the knowledge of others is vital in sailing; a skipper relies heavily on the crew. Both the journey of sailing and the growing process remind us that experiences define us more than any destination. Each setback, success, and moment of tranquility or turmoil contributes to our character. Sailing teaches us to embrace the journey, learn, and find joy in the present. As we look ahead to our Spring Sailing season, we anticipate a strong group of seniors on the water, racing every weekend in 37-degree waters. This starkly contrasts fall sailing, where the waters were still swimmable in October. The Islesboro Central School Sailing Team deeply thanks Big Tree Boating for their unwavering support.



## For "SAIL"

BTB has a number of boats for sale,

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](mailto:bigtreeboating@gmail.com)