

SEBAGO CANOE CLUB E B L A D E

The official electronic newsletter of the Sebago Canoe Club in Brooklyn, NY

kayaking, canoeing, sailing, racing, rowing

December 2015 Vol. 82, Issue 2

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FROSTBITE REGATTA

NEW YEARS DAY

January 1, 2016

10am - 4pm | General Meeting - 2pm

Spend New Year's day at Sebago. Go paddling or sailing in the morning. Bring a potluck dish to share and usher in 2016 catching up with friends at Sebago.

Stay for our first general meeting of the new year at 2pm.



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford



Commodore's Report *By Walter Lewandowski*

What a great time to be a member of Sebago. In 2015 we had more activities for club members than ever before, including kayak camping trips, wilderness canoe journeys, sailing regattas and the building of our very own safety boat. We will all be reading articles about these and other adventures later in this issue.

We have greater member participation in all activities, including one close to my heart, our volunteers. Thank you all. Our club facilities look better than I ever remember. Many of these volunteer efforts are behind the scenes and not as apparent as our brick and mortar or activity committees. So a special thanks to all of them; you know who you are.

I must be brief as the fair weather sirens that have been luring me away from normal pre-holiday duties are calling me back to address them. Aren't we lucky to love the outdoors and have found a group of like-minded souls at a quirky place called Sebago? Enjoy little adventures and a happy and wonderful holiday season for all.



Sea Kayak Report *By Tony Pignatello*

Ahoy Sebago,

I hope everyone is enjoying the holidays. Some of you may think the paddling season is over and it is time light a fire and sit in front of the TV. I say to you: at Sebago the party never ends.

By the time you are reading this, the pool sessions in Flushing Meadows Park will be underway. For a small fee you can get a two-hour private lesson in a heated pool. Just tell the instructors what you want to work on and they will be happy to accommodate you.

It's time to dust off the hiking boots. Throughout the winter Frank Favia and I will lead some hikes. Some of them will be within the city limits and others will be within an hour's drive. Possible venues include Green-Wood Cemetery, Long Island Pine Barrens, Rockefeller State Park, Van Cortlandt Park, The Palisades, and Central Park.

Tuesday Night at the Movies has been a favorite for the last few years. On certain Tuesdays during the winter we try to get together for a pot-luck dinner and a movie. Nowhere else in the country can you enjoy a woolly pig (Mangalitz), five-star movie, and the best conversation in New York under one tin roof. Make sure you are on the Yahoo or Google email list to take advantage of movie night.

While I was out paddling on Thanksgiving weekend I heard fishermen on the radio talking about all the herring they were catching. That means the seals can't be far behind. We will do our annual Seal Watch Paddle and Hike in January out at Jones Beach.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the volunteers who take a leadership role to make all of these activities possible. We are truly blessed.

Happy Holidays

Pool Sessions Winter 2015-2016

By Phil Giller

The club will once again hold kayaking skill sessions at the Flushing Meadows Pool Complex in Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens.

The sessions are every Sunday from 9 to 11 am starting December 6, 2015 until April 2016.

Please check our website for dates and details.

Boats and all equipment are provided. NO personal boats allowed without first getting permission from Linda Peterson or Phil Giller.

SPACE IS LIMITED AND WILL BE ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

You MUST register in advance with Linda Peterson.

COST: \$20 SEBAGO MEMBERS

COST: \$30 NON-SEBAGO MEMBERS

(plus \$5 if not an ACA member)

ALL payments to be made by PayPal.

Space is limited and Sebago members will be given first preference. If we get too crowded we will ask members to sign up every other week.

This is a wonderful way to learn or brush up on your kayak skills in a safe environment under the eyes of your Sebago ACA coaches.

Learn wet exits

Learn basic and advanced rescues

Learn bracing

Learn sculling strokes

Learn how to roll

Or any other Level 2 skill you are interested in learning

Rowing Report

By Joe Romano

We've had a great summer and fall, with several members beginning to row and some people joining the club to scull. Also our fleet of sculls has increased: some Alden sculls have been donated to the club, and we have acquired a more advanced Alden scull from a long-term member, Dick Springer, who is moving out of the area and will be missed.

Now we are faced with the task of reviewing our sculls and what needs to be done to them to make them fully operational and available for safe use. We are also facing the challenge of determining the best way to store our sculls so that our members can get them down to the water and back without making it more physically exerting than the sculling itself. But these are the challenges we welcome as we delight in a resurgence of rowing at Sebago.

Don't hesitate to let us know if you'd like to try out rowing yourself. It can be a very pleasant workout gliding through the beautiful waters of Jamaica Bay.

**Name Published for
Senior Membership:**

Mark Rendel



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford

Above: Delaware Family Adventure Trip

Canoe Report *By Dan Olson*

This season the Canoe Committee focused on three areas of activities related to family, high adventure and public trips. The Canoe Committee exists in a virtual and inclusive world, drawing its participation from all areas of the club including members and their families. Canoeing provides a great way for beginners and non-paddlers to safely enjoy the water, learn a new skill, perfect an old one or go camping.

We completed multi-day trips this summer to the lakes of the Adirondacks (where we are working our way around the Whitney Wilderness) and to the moving waters of the Delaware (where our family-oriented crew camped on islands in the river and largely avoided the poison ivy).

Training this year focused on developing the skills of younger paddlers with a two-day workshop at Lake Sebago, and older paddlers who can stern and bow the large war canoes. The large canoes were put into service several times for public events and they are clearly a conversation piece.

The Canoe Committee also collaborated with other boat clubs and provided boats and volunteers to the Amazing Bronx River Flotilla

as well as two open paddles with the Long Island City Community Boathouse using standard and large canoes. We continue to cross-post certain events with other clubs and with the Appalachian Mountain Club. And, of course, we are continuing our partnership with the Concrete Canoe Team of CCNY.

Our fleet is now at its optimum size and quality thanks to the great work of Steve Welch who made some tactical trades and organized a successful work day. We have plans to put one of the war canoes in the work shed as soon as is practical because it needs some serious maintenance. This will also give the club a chance to learn how to work with a traditional wood-and-canvas boat. Also, a paddle carving workshop is planned for April 2016.

For the 2016 season, you can expect more of the same with a continued focus on training so that the club will have more skilled paddlers and trip leaders.



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford

Above and Below: Delaware Family Adventure Trip



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford

Above and Below: Delaware Family Adventure Trip



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford

Above and Below: Delaware Family Adventure Trip



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford

Adirondack High Adventure Trip (#3)



photo courtesy of Jim Luton

Above: Misty morning Little Tupper Lake.



photo courtesy of Jim Luton

Above: Carry into Rock Pond. Below: Water break Little Tupper Lake.



photo courtesy of Jim Luton



photo courtesy of Jim Luton

Above: Paddling north to Round Lake. Below: Round Lake Outlet.



photo courtesy of Jim Luton



Above: Swim and a nap. Below: Dan caught a bass!



07.29.2015 20:15

photo courtesy of Robbie Orlando



photo courtesy of Jim Luton

Above: Pancakes for breakfast. Below: Round Lake habitues.



07.28.2015 18:15

photo courtesy of Robbie Orlando



photo courtesy of Bonnie Aldinger

Above and Below: Family Canoe Day on Jamaica Bay



photo courtesy of Bonnie Aldinger



photo courtesy of Bonnie Aldinger

Above and Below: Family Canoe Day on Jamaica Bay



photo courtesy of Bonnie Aldinger



photo courtesy of Bonnie Aldinger

Above and Below: Family Canoe Day on Jamaica Bay



photo courtesy of Bonnie Aldinger





Above: Eoin Delap wins the first Eoin Delap Cup.

photo courtesy of Ghost Photographer

Sail Report

By Holly Sears and Jim Luton

Sebago Sailing had a very busy season in 2015 as we continued our typical schedule of events including our *Spring Race Series*, the *Annual Sailing Clinic*, the ever-popular monthly cruises, an *Instructor Clinic*, a *Beginning Laser Clinic* and a *Race Clinic*. We welcomed many new members and our group continues to grow.

We capped the 2015 sailing season with two very popular events: the Sebago Cup - a cruising-style race approximately eight miles long that circumnavigates the islands of Jamaica Bay, NY, and the Annual Fall Series that spans six Sundays (with five to seven races each day). Kudos go to the top finishers of the Sebago Cup: Laser sailors Eoin Delap, 1st; David Crompton, 2nd; Holly Sears, 3rd; Hans Liebert, 1st Sunfish; Ben Crompton, 2nd Sunfish, Dottie Lewandowski, 3rd Sunfish; John Decker and Carol Landry, 1st double-hander (V15); Liz and Jack Armstrong, 2nd double-hander (V15); Patrick and Jake Daniels, 3rd double-hander (Goat Island Skiff) - with 23 participating sailors in this multi-class event. Twenty sailors (including Lasers, Sunfish, an Aero and V15s) participated in this year's Fall Series over the six-day series event. The winners were Eoin Delap, 1st Laser; Tracy Kornrich, 2nd Laser; Holly Sears, 3rd Laser and Patrick Daniels as 1st Sunfish.

In honor of his achievement, participation, and contribution to Sebago Canoe Club's Sailing Program, the Fall Series Award will now

and hereafter be called the Eoin Delap Cup with Eoin as its first recipient. Eoin and his wife Clarisa are returning to Ireland to live and we wish them good luck in their new adventure. Eoin will be missed at Sebago (and Laser District 8 where he placed in the top three spots of Winter Sailing at Seawanhaka YC for several years running, including a 1st for the Winter Sailing Series this past year).

We finished off the fall season with a work day and Sailing meeting and plans are in the works for some restructuring of our growing committee. Our members are terrific! So many people contribute to our program in many ways throughout the year. We could not exist without their efforts. Yay Sebago! Over the winter we plan to create written guidelines for our activity to more easily enable individual contribution.

In the meantime our sailors who have winter gear continue to sail in our home waters on Jamaica Bay and also in frostbite racing series at Seawanhaka YC (Tracy Kornrich, Paul Clifford, Dino Ness, Holly Sears) and Seacliff YC (Mia Brandt, Lissa Solnick).

Look for our annual winter meeting to be scheduled after the New Year if you are interested in sailing and let us know at sailing@sebago-canoeclub.org. Also, let us know if you would like to be included on our sailing list for committee communications at sebagosailing@google-groups.com.



photo courtesy of Howie Alfred and Jim Luton

Above and Below: Sebago Cup 2015 - All Clear!



photo courtesy of Howie Alfred and Jim Luton



photo courtesy of Howie Alfred and Jim Luton

Above and Below: Sebago Cup 2015 - The fleet spreads out downwind.



photo courtesy of Howie Alfred and Jim Luton



photo courtesy of Bonnie Aldinger

Above and Below: Fall 2015 Race Series



photo courtesy of Patrick Daniels



photo courtesy of Patrick Daniels

Above and Below: Fall 2015 Race Series



photo courtesy of Patrick Daniels



photo courtesy of Bonnie Aldinger

Above and Below: The Goat Island Skiff Gathering, Floyd Bennet Field.



photo courtesy of Bonnie Aldinger



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford

Above and Below: Sailing Workday



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford

Above and Below: Sailing Workday



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford

Above and Below: Sailing Workday



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford

Above and Below: Sailing Workday



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford

Above and Below: Sailing Workday



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford

2015 Fort Wadsworth Paddle - A Wonderful, Exciting and Challenging Kayak Adventure

By Laurie Bleich

Our adventure began on a beautiful, sunny October Saturday at our very own Sebago Canoe Club. It was in the mid 50's and sunny, with a pleasant, gentle breeze. We were all dressed in our various forms of cold-weather gear as advised by our fearless and fabulous leader, Steve Heinzerling. He had teamed up with John Daskalakis of the Parks Department to arrange an overnight expedition from Jamaica Bay to Ft. Wadsworth in Staten Island, which was a repeat of the same trip this past spring, and back by popular demand. As usual, Steve had done a stupendous job of planning and organizing, which included the provision and preparation of a wonderful dinner for our overnight camping expedition at the Fort. He had also arranged for several other clubs to join us on this expedition, including the North Brooklyn Boat Club, John's group of paddlers from Floyd Bennett Field, and the Red Hook Boaters. It was thrilling to have several different kayak clubs participating in the event, making for more fun, more friends and more food!

It was bustling at the canoe club on that Saturday morning, with a group preparing to embark on a day trip, our paddlers preparing for the expedition, as well as lots of people who had volunteered to be the support and ground crew, bringing all sorts of supplies to Staten Island in preparation for our arrival later that afternoon. The support vehicles were stuffed to the gills, just as we would be after dinner that night! Around 10:30 or so in the morning we began our paddle. It was mild conditions in the basin, but as we emerged out into the bay, the wind began to whip up. It was a good workout, and we all seemed to be concentrating hard on our paddling to compensate for the increasing force of the wind. As we continued paddling, the wind became stronger and stronger, and we stopped to fix a malfunctioning skeg which required some ingenious thinking and use of locally scavenged materials by several creative paddlers including Carlos Negron, who found a piece of washed-up foam to use for the repair. Duct tape of course came in handy as well.

We continued on our journey, which became increasingly difficult due to the winds of probably 15-20 knots, and a couple of wise paddlers decided to turn back, knowing that we were up against some tough conditions. The rest of us stubbornly continued on, and we finally reached Coney Island and stopped for a well-needed lunch break. It was beautiful and sunny on the beach, but cold and windy as well. I was reminded how cold it gets when you paddle in cold weather and stop to eat lunch. Several people had hot drinks in their thermoses, including Louis DeMarco, who was paddling part of the way with us and joined us for lunch, and I bummed some of his hot tea which he generously shared with me. It was a little bit of heaven on that cold afternoon!

After lunch we resumed our trip, and after a while it became apparent that we would have to paddle really hard to reach our destination on Staten Island. We seemed to be approaching Hoffman Island which lies just to the east of Staten Island, but the longer we paddled, the less progress we seemed to be making. I had my eye on the island and a nearby marker, and one minute it appeared to be closer, and the next minute not so much! I think we were all trying different strategies. At one point

Ilene Levenson paddled over to me and suggested that we approach the island at an angle by ferrying to be more efficient and take advantage of the current, which is a great strategy, but I tried this for a few minutes and then continued to paddle straight for the island. Sometimes when you begin to get tired, your instinct just takes over. So I just kept paddling as hard as I could towards the island.

After we had all been paddling for what felt like quite a long time, I heard Steve's whistle, meaning we should all group together. He made a wise decision to turn around since it became clear that we weren't getting any closer to our goal. However, I was so tired, both physically and psychologically, that I felt I didn't have the energy to turn around, so I kept paddling even harder towards that elusive goal of Hoffman Island. After a short while of concerted effort, I realized that I wasn't getting anywhere, so I finally turned around to paddle towards the others. I passed a couple of our paddlers who said they were going to keep trying to get to Staten Island, and I encouraged them to turn around. At this point, I was quite tired, and was thinking that it would be really easy to paddle back towards Coney Island where the group was headed, so I gently paddled in that direction. But to my dismay, it was just as difficult to paddle in that direction! In retrospect, I realize that the current was headed out to sea since we were at maximum ebb, and paddling either towards Staten Island or Coney Island would be against the current.

So I continued to paddle towards Coney Island on my own since I had become separated from the rest of the crew. As many paddlers know, it's difficult to know if you're nearing shore since distance on the water is deceptive, so we look for increasing detail of the buildings or other landmarks on the shore. It took quite a while until I finally began to see more detail in the parachute jump on Coney Island. At last I landed on the beach right in front of the parachute jump, and since my phone battery had died, I asked someone on the shore if I could use their phone to call my husband John, who was part of the ground crew. They gave me a kind of wary look, not surprisingly since I had my kayak outfit on. But they generously lent me their phone. We all got rides and arrived safely in Staten Island.

In retrospect, several factors contributed to the difficulty of the paddle. First, there was quite a strong wind. In addition to that, we had several delays during the trip: first, leaving a little bit later than planned; second, stopping fix a malfunctioning skeg; and third, a long lunch break. All of this contributed to our trying to paddle to Staten Island against 15-20 knot winds together with near maximum ebb tide. Steve had the wisdom to have us turn around, which I eventually did in spite of my exhaustion pushing me towards the elusive goal of Staten Island for a bit longer. A thousand cheers to our ground crew for coming to rescue us at Coney Island!

What followed was a wonderful night of food and partying and camaraderie with fellow paddlers and campers on a wonderful spot right in our own city! Steve cooked spectacular lamb, the North Brooklyn Boat club brought fabulous kielbasa, and we all had a blast!



photo courtesy of Bonnie Aldinger

Above and Below: After Thanksgiving paddle.



photo courtesy of Bonnie Aldinger



photo courtesy of Bonnie Aldinger

Above and Below: After Thanksgiving paddle.



photo courtesy of Bonnie Aldinger

Melissa McGill's "Constellation" Project at Bannerman Castle *By Denis Sivack*

After getting gas and the paper, leaving my unread Thursday, July 25, 2015 New York Times in my car, I loaded my kayak gear at Sebago and headed north to Croton Point Park for the Hudson River Greenland Festival. I had preregistered for an early Friday morning car and paddling trip to Pollepel Island and Bannerman Castle led by Gary Grzybek.

Meeting at 6:30 am on Friday, we began our trip to the island where an on-island guide from the Bannerman Island Trust would lead our walking tour. As the castle and island are familiar to most Sebago people, many of whom have paddled there - without the misfortune of the kayaking lover who was allegedly murdered in those same waters - and about which much information is easily available online, I will bypass the history and turn to more immediate questions. During our walk we saw many tall, thin poles with small globes on top of them. At ground level we were near the bases and from an elevated perspective clearly saw several at a time. They are evident in the daylight photo shown here and are not to be confused with the angular beams supporting the castle.

On asking our Trust guide, himself of Scottish origins like Bannerman, about them, it became clear from his response that the poles supported lights - all part of an art project that he spoke about in general PR terms while humorously letting us know that it was not much to his liking. Among ourselves we speculated about why: (1) did he see it as a use of funds that might be "better spent" according to his tastes and preferences, (2) was it, and the time for the project's construction, and the time it would remain in place, something that disrupted the island, (3) did he just not go for "artsy stuff," or (4) was it something else?

By coincidence, my unread New York Times from the day before had an illustrated article, "The Twinkling Ruins of an Island Castle," by Ted Loos describing what we had attempted to make sense of. The island project is "Constellation" by Melissa McGill. The article and what I saw of the structure in daytime prompted additional investigation.

Melissa McGill grew up on Long Island and studied at Rhode Island School of Design and in Italy. She was a guide at Dia:Beacon and currently lives in Beacon. You can assume her interest in water surroundings and ruins come directly out of her living and study. Her curiosity about the castle, easily seen from the Metro North tracks, ultimately led to the project. My interest was sparked because I grew up in Central New York in a river town with New York Central RR tracks running down this same route, past the castle, through the river property I worked on in Dobbs Ferry, and by the RR station down the street from where I lived in Riverdale. I have often fantasized about the people in past times who might have traversed the same routes.



McGill's "Constellation" consists of seventeen vertical poles, from forty to fifty feet in height, each of which has a glass globe and light designed to twinkle for two hours at dusk and continue to do so for two years. The poles are positioned in accord with missing elements of Bannerman Castle and, as a constellation of lights, link to the Lenape belief in Opi Tamakan, the "white road" or Milky Way, something which in the days before the pollution of the night sky would have been clearly seen and central to native beliefs. McGill has the blessing of the Lenape Center and others for the project. Blessings, while being a good spiritual support, rarely come with funding, but as a show of interest signal "we will not stand in your way," and "this is good for the community," and often help in getting funding from other sources.

New York State's Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, which controls the island, granted permission. It has taken over three years to properly fundraise and put the project together. There was \$20,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts and through other sources, including crowdsourcing, \$500,000 of the \$650,000 budget has been raised.

Of great help was guidance from Anne Pasternak, outgoing director of Creative Time, and her introduction of McGill to Glenn D. Lowry, director of the Museum of Modern Art. Lowry himself lives near the site area. Creative Time, now global in scope with its backing of art projects, had its origins with Anita Contini (now with Bloomberg Philanthropies) and Art on the Beach - an umbrella for art projects, sculptural work and dances, taking place on the Battery Park landfill site made from the excavated soil from the construction site of the Twin Towers. How fitting it is that the backing for work at those sites, now gone, can today and tonight foster starlight farther up the Hudson.

[Author's Note: I hesitated to include any nighttime images by other people without securing copyright permission. Such images, along with extensive coverage of the project, are available online.]



photo courtesy of Denis Sivack

Carving a Norsaq and Deciding On a Finishing Design Motif

By Denis Sivack

Carving a norsaq was one of the activity options at this year's Hudson River Greenland Festival. After already having made several Greenland paddles outside of the HRGF through SCC and Chris Raab, I welcomed the opportunity to make (or at least to get started on) my own norsaq - that being part of my dream fantasy of ultimately making every item of equipment needed to kayak. Of course, you could paddle without a norsaq but, as part of my own art and anthropology compulsions, I am drawn into both the culture and the making.

With guidance from our carving guides, I choose my norsaq block length and basic style and, in the course of the festival, did the basic planing, shaving, grooving, and preliminary sanding for my throwing stick, opting for a norsaq with finger and hand grooves and a channel to hold a harpoon - after all, a norsaq is a throwing stick, even if one never gets to the "white whale" stage of making and using the harpoon.

I left the festival with the basic work done, aside from some desire to thin out and taper the longest norsaq sides before choosing to "decorate" (perhaps "personalize" is a better word choice) the stick by burning in an illustration before applying tung oil.

In choosing an illustration, I wanted something specifically linking me with the culture, drawing on Inuit tradition as well as my own inter-

est in shamanic practice. I was also aware that I was drawn to the linear grain patterns in the wood and hoped to make them some part of the design motif. There were beautiful illustrations of land animals and air and sea creatures in Franz Boas' *Primitive Art*. These were more suited to be painted and colored or carved rather than burned into something as small and narrowly elongated as my norsaq, though of interest is an illustration from Boas (provided here) which showed variations in norsaq shape designs among diverse cultures, with the Greenland form we see most often among them.

From my library of other well-illustrated works such as *Stones, Bones, and Skin: Ritual and Shamanic Art* (ArtsCanada), *Sacred Circles: Two Thousand Years of North American Indian Art* (from an exhibition organized by Ralph T. Coe) and *Inua: Spirit World of the Bering Sea Eskimo* (Smithson Institution) - all mentioned here because they are likely to be part of a planned future article on the developing museum position of specifically crediting objects to their creators among indigenous cultures - I continued to examine images relating to sea animal and totem designs more closely related to Inuit (Greenland) culture rather than the more general yet extraordinarily beautiful Northwest Indian culture. I had a sense of the "concept" I wanted to

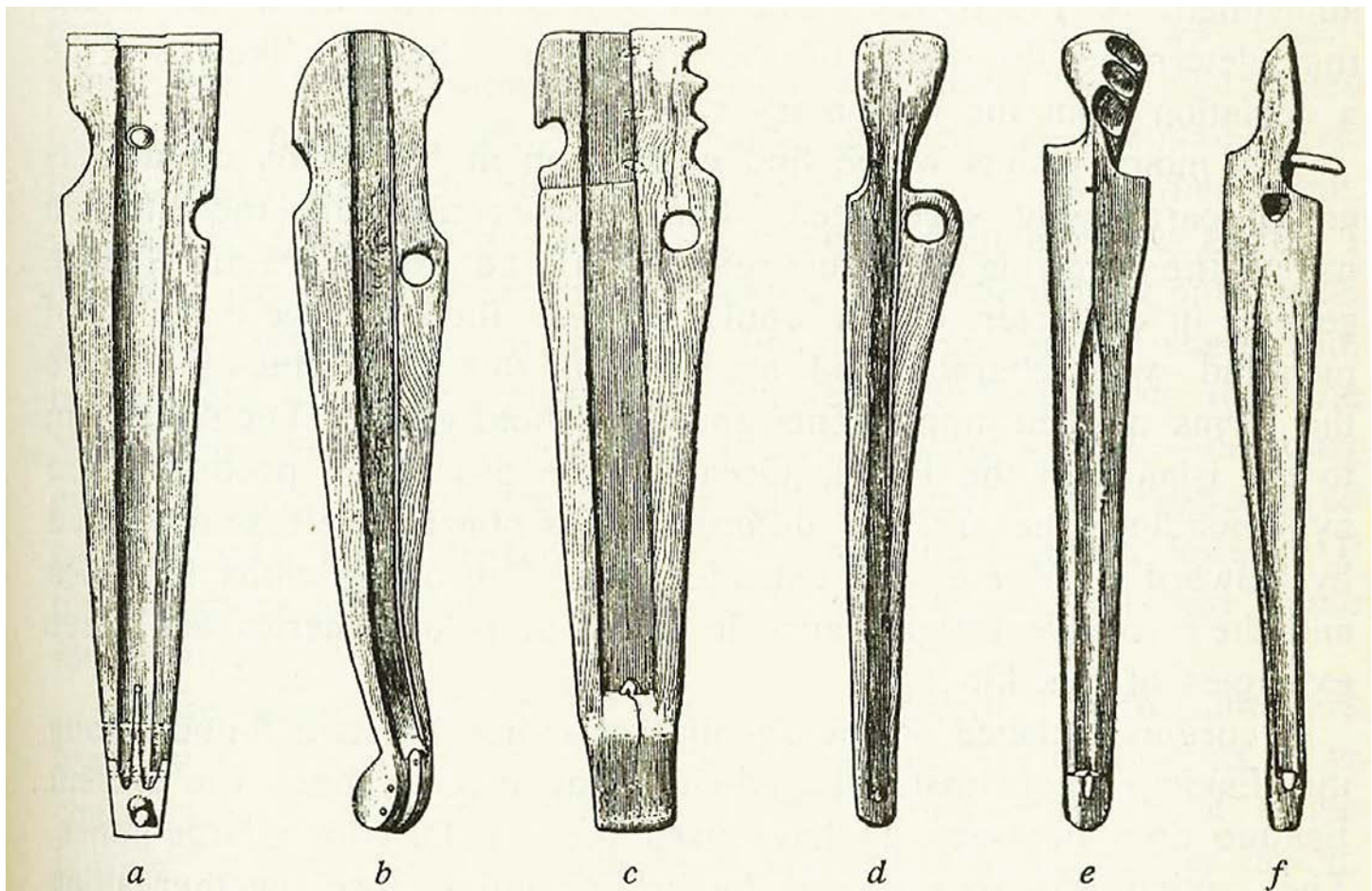


Fig. 132. Throwing sticks of the Eskimo; *a*, Greenland; *b*, Ungava Bay; *c*, Cumberland Sound; *d*, Point Barrow; *e*, Alaska (exact location doubtful); *f*, Cape Nome.

be embodied with my choice, yet the actual illustrations were either too detailed or were unsuited for the linear dimensions of my norsaq, so work on it did not continue.

Recently while in Maine and going through some publications on Maine, I saw a photograph (credited to Dean Abramson) of "Swimming Caribou" by Jacob Irkok, part of an exhibition *Animal Allies: Inuit Views of the Northern World* which ran at Bowdoin College from April 5, 2012 through January 6, 2014. Jacob Irkok makes swimming caribou from antlers. These are three-dimensional sculpted objects (which themselves can be moved and spatially realigned) I was seeing in a two-dimensional photograph and I knew immediately that his work was something I wanted to incorporate into my norsaq. As I researched him, learning about and seeing more of his work, nothing lessened the impact that first seeing his work had on me. I felt his creation speaking directly to me.

Irkok is a contemporary (1937-2009) Inuit drawing on his traditional culture and I knew I could put his spirit and that of his caribou into my work. The elongated caribou figures as animal spirits could again swim, one behind the other, on my norsaq, on the underside of the harpoon channel flow and in the direction of the wood grain as their eternal river.

To meet a publication deadline, this article will likely be finished before my norsaq is. Nevertheless, thanks to the convergence of searching and the serendipity of discovery, I have found my way. As a matter of convenience and closure to this article, I made a swimming caribou acetate tracing, placed it on my unfinished norsaq, and photographed it as a work in progress, including it here.

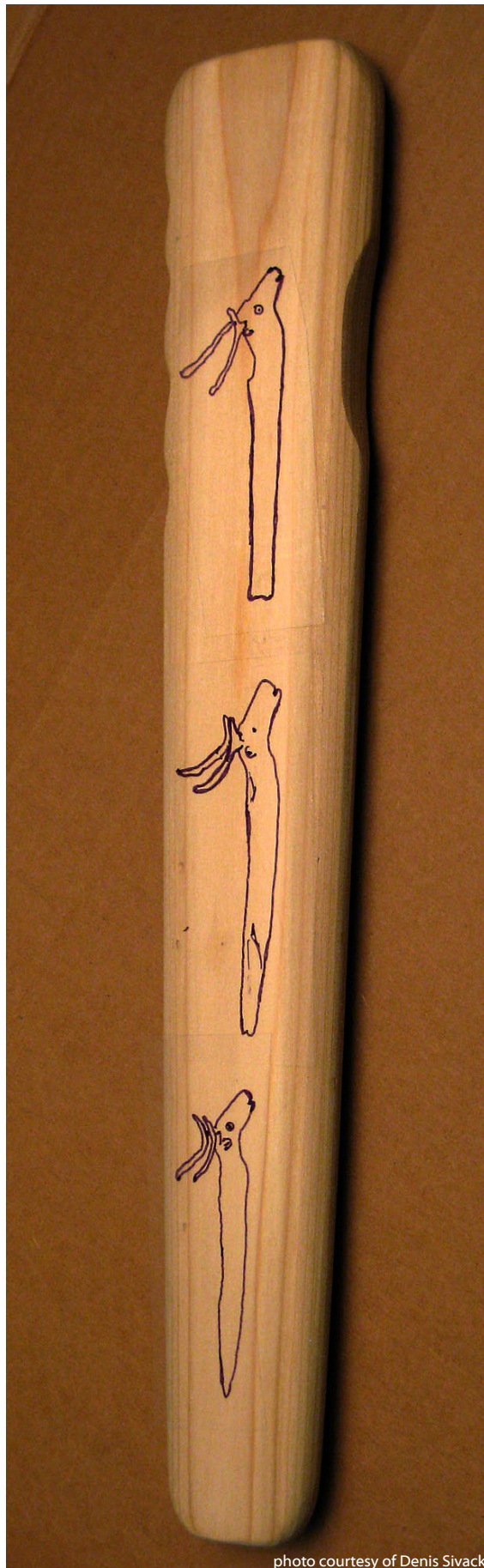


photo courtesy of Denis Sivack



photo courtesy of Denis Sivack



photo courtesy of Denis Sivack

Canarsian: Sebago's Big Boat Project Goes "Full Tilt Boogie"

By Jim Luton

On any big boat project, progress more often than not appears incremental, until some seemingly magical event renders that progress as sudden and huge. In reality, months of work and scores of small tasks are tallied until the work done is deemed sufficient to move forward into the next big phase of the build. Such was the case recently with our "roll-over" and celebration of the past year's work on Canarsian, the club's Point Comfort 23 powerboat construction project.

Our committed crew worked away all through last winter's ice and snow and through the summer's heat and humidity until that big hull was ready for her skin of glass. Back in July, progress had seemed quite rapid with big sheets of planking hung one after the other. This all slowed down as we approached the bottom planking from amidship to the bow. Now, instead of a single layer of 3/4" thick planking in full eight foot lengths, we were hanging two staggered layers of 3/8" plank, in lengths that got progressively shorter until they spanned only six inches at a time right at the bow! There were forty separate planks, each dry-fitted, screwed, then removed. These planks were then re-hung in

one go with glue this time. That's what I meant by "incremental". That bow took as long to plank as all of the rest of the hull, three weeks (of weekends) in fact. Then there were hundreds of holes to fill with little hand-whittled cedar plugs, lots of edges to plane and sand, and multiple coats of fairing compound to trowel on and sand smooth until the hull was ready for glassing.

Glassing a big hull is a job that takes considerable organization, preparation, and a well-coordinated crew. We were fortunate to have a dedicated group of club members ready to come early and stay late to get this messy job done. On Saturday, the first crew gathered to cut glass, mix epoxy, and sheathe the hull. We started at nine that morning and finished up about six that evening, laying down nearly 200 square feet of glass and epoxy. On Sunday, a second crew came out to lay down two more coats of neat epoxy, fully saturating and filling the weave. Over the next two weeks, another round of fairing compound was applied and sanded, and a final coat of epoxy went down. The spray rails were fabricated and installed, and a dozen little last-minute details were com-

Below: Dry fitting the bow planking.



photo courtesy of Jim Luton

pleted to get the hull ready for paint. Some of the epoxy and glass crew were called back in to help lay down two coats of gray primer, and at that point we were done (for the moment) on the hull exterior.

The rollover is that magical event that marks a real turning point, literally, in the construction of a boat. After several months of seeing her upside down, we finally get a look at her as she is supposed to be, and we get a new sense of her interior volume as well. I wanted this rollover to be a true celebration, and I felt that it was important to involve the whole club in the event. I invited all members to submit a potential name or names for the new boat, which were written down and placed in a box inside the boat shop. Those names were published online, and then everyone was welcome to vote for two of their favorites. The two most popular names were then put into a hat, with the winner to be drawn at the rollover celebration.

We had a grand turnout for the rollover, with thirty or so members participating. This was real participation too, not just a symbolic gathering of interested bystanders. The crowd literally picked up this twenty-three foot boat, carried her outside, and rolled her over onto pads and blankets. It was comic in some ways. The shop doors are not wide enough for both boat and carriers to pass through, so the boat was

handed off to those outside as she came through, while those displaced inside ran around the building to rejoin the effort a few seconds later. I was directing the affair, so I couldn't just stand back and watch, but those that could found it humorous! When the strongback was torn down and reassembled for the right-side-up orientation, we all picked her up again, and carried her back inside, where she was carefully leveled and shored up. A grand feast commenced back in the clubhouse, and the boat's new name was drawn by Severn Clay-Youman's son Kaspar. Canarsian was the winner, and is a great name for our new boat!

We're back to "incremental" again, as the interior construction gets underway, and the layout is planned and finalized. I have been extremely pleased with our progress, one year after our budget was approved. We have engaged many people in the process, and I hope it has been as rewarding for them as it has been for me. I look forward to this winter's work, and a launching celebration some time next season. It's too early to pick a date, but stay tuned!

Below: Hans and Howie planking the bow.



photo courtesy of Jim Luton



photo courtesy of Jim Luton

Above: Chris planes the keel land. Below: Crafting the stem.



photo courtesy of Ghost Photographer



photo courtesy of Ghost Photographer

Above: Carving the stem. Below: Running the keel fillet.



photo courtesy of Ghost Photographer



photo courtesy of Jim Luton

Above: Carol and CJ, filling and fairing. Below: Hanging the splash rail.



photo courtesy of Ghost Photographer



Left: Glassing the hull.
Above: Lynn cuts the fiberglass cloth.
Below: Wetting out.



photo courtesy of Ghost Photographer



photo courtesy of Jim Luton

Above and Below: Filling the weave.



photo courtesy of Jim Luton



photo courtesy of Ghost Photographer

Above: The glass crew, day two. Below: Roll and tip - the first coat of primer.

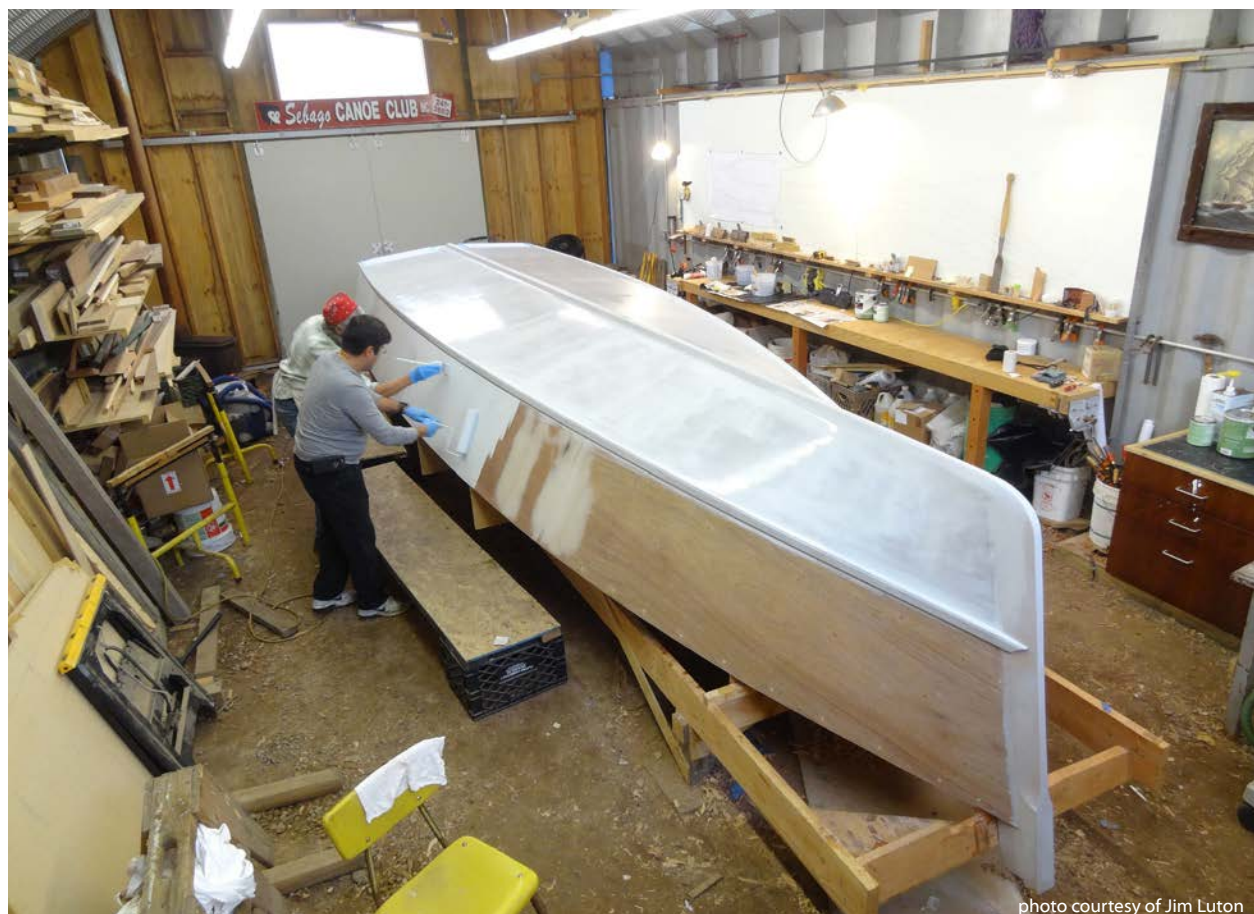


photo courtesy of Jim Luton



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford

Above: Free at last! Below: Heading outside.



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford



photo courtesy of Tracy Kornrich

Above and Below: The much anticipated rollover.



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford



photo courtesy of Elizabeth Green

Above and Below: Nearly upright.



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford



photo courtesy of Tracy Kornrich

Above and Below: Soft landing.



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford



Above on this page and next: Drawing the name - Canarsian!
Below: Ami contemplates the waterline.



photo courtesy of Chris Bickford



photo courtesy of Hans Liebert

Below: Shored and leveled upright.



photo courtesy of Jim Luton



photo courtesy of Jim Luton

Above and Below: The interior construction has begun.



photo courtesy of Ghost Photographer



Above: Floor timbers.



Sebago Canoe Club Gardens

By Mary Eyster and Mary Ann Hoag

"We are a boat club, not a garden club." Yes, that's true, and yet there are two very good reasons that we keep our gardens growing. First one is, we are happy to have the plants around us, and to be able to enjoy them throughout the season. Second reason is, our contract with NYC Parks requires us to enhance the property with native plantings. And we have certainly enhanced it! Adele Abrams, Jen Feil and Beth Bloedow were the first stewards, and they turned SCC from essentially a dump into a green space. There was rubble at or just below the surface, so getting things to grow and thrive was a real challenge. The vision was to plant natives that would support butterflies. This requires both food plants for the larva, aka caterpillars, and nectar plants for the butterflies. We have tried to maintain that approach, especially with the various milkweed varieties we have all around the grounds.

This fall we engaged in some serious enhancement, and installed about 400 new native perennials. Most of the plants were "plugs," meaning very small plants from flats, dug into the beds all around the grounds. Bob O'Neil led a crew, including Gail Bier, Mab Segrest and Annie (and others), that installed plants along the "PAX" fence – the one on the waterside near the picnic tables. In addition to the new perennials they put in, they also planted shrubs that were re-located from one of the front gardens. Lynn Whitehead attacked the shoreline (where she likes to

swing in her hammocks). She dug in a few flats (around eighty plants) of native grass and goldenrods. Larry Lembo and Robbie Orlando, with help from some stump movers, put up lines to mark off the plantings.

On other sides of the grounds, Jan Price, Marty Small, Julia Brodsky and others planted one of the front gardens, after Jack Rapp had extracted some weedy shrubs that needed to be relocated. Lissa and David Solnick planted native bee balm and also some day lilies near the door to the clubhouse. Bonnie Aldinger and Marty Small planted in the rock garden and the garden opposite the walkway near the wash rack. OH DEAR. I really know that I have forgotten many people. Mary Ann headed up a crew the final day, when I wasn't there, and they completed the planting of about ten large shrubs and trees. I know we've likely left someone out; we apologize for that. BUT, the point is that we hope to have an even better bloom next year, so please appreciate and respect the garden areas. They are a benefit to our environment and to us as well.

Others who helped with the planting, trimming, weeding and earth moving: John Decker, Peter Maloney, Ed Huber, John Messina, Tracy Kornrich, Quint Klinger, Finnegan and Ethan Jacobs, Jerry Sachs, Lori Gralnick. Oh, and let's not forget John Wright. I guess that's too obvious to require mentioning!!

Below: Sebago grounds in 2003 - The first stewards Adele Abrams, Jennifer Feil and Beth Bloedow - we tackled the old dump near the front fence. After we removed the weeds and trash we had a clear area, but poor soil.



photo courtesy of Beth Bloedow



photo courtesy of Beth Bloedow

Above and Below: Sebago grounds in 2003 - We amended the soil with lots of donated compost.



photo courtesy of Beth Bloedow



photo courtesy of Beth Bloedow

Above: Sebago grounds in 2003 - Preparing for the new plantings. Below: Progress - Path partially installed. Sailboat Racks moved and set-up.



photo courtesy of Beth Bloedow



photo courtesy of Beth Bloedow

Above and Below: Sebago grounds in 2003 - We laid out planting beds We planted and lined pathways with stones we'd dug out of the planting beds. (Jacob inspects the job.)

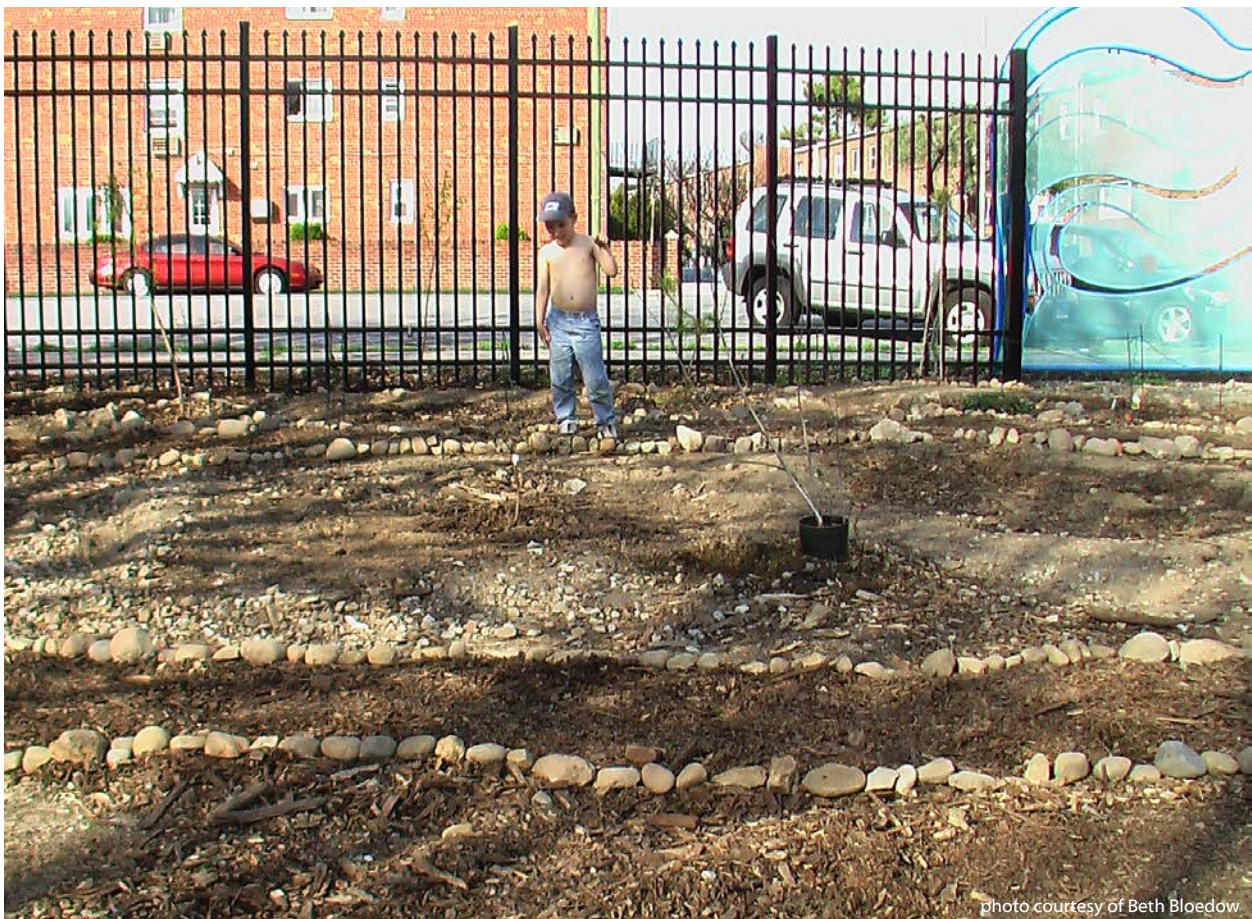


photo courtesy of Beth Bloedow

Sebago Canoe Club Board of Directors:**Commodore** - Walter Lewandowski**Vice-Commodore** - John Wright**Secretary** - Beth Bloedow**Treasurer** - Zachary Abrams**Board Members:**

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Beth Eller

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EBlade

*Thanks to Editor: Beth Bloedow, Designer: Holly Sears.**All content in this issue is from individual contributors and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Sebago Canoe Club.*