



# Notes from the Bilge



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June 2019

Newsletter of the Lake Champlain Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society, Inc.

Steve Pond, President

## President's Message

What a fickle spring we've had! The wet weather has Lake Champlain above flood stage for almost a month now slowing the start of boating season here. We haven't seen the Burlington breakwater since the lake was frozen. Hopefully high water will subside everywhere and we'll be back boating before too long.

We've had two workshops since the last newsletter. I would like to thank Cyndy & Rueben Smith at Tumblehome for hosting our members in March and Hacker Craft for showing us a very impressive operation in April. If the lake level recedes and we can get our boats in the water, our first rendezvous is scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Old Dock House in Essex, New York. Hope to see many members there.

As summer approaches we have our own boat show to look forward to on July 27<sup>th</sup> at the Burlington Boathouse. We hope you'll decide to attend the show and have enclosed a registration form (which is also available on our website). We are excited to announce two new hands-on opportunities this year. Emily Weber is working with the LCMM on getting two longboats at the show for people to try their hand at rowing these 30' boats. Hannah Langsdale, the owner of the Friendship sloops, will be offering free two-hour cruises throughout the day on her two sloops. Our annual boat parade will be the highlight of the show but dinner at the Marriott will be a wonderful way to end the day. Please consider joining us for a delicious dinner with boat club friends.

I am sad to let everyone know that we lost another member in April. John Weeks was an active member back in the early 2000s with his wife Anne. They had many boats to be proud of. The *Pacifier II* was a Rhodes designed sloop built in Germany. Their 1951 Lyman Islander *L'Anni* was completely rebuilt from the keel up by John and Anne in their Plattsburgh driveway. John was a very talented

*continued page 2*

*column 2*



*by Susan Haigh*

On Saturday March 9th our chapter was treated to a tour of one of the premier restoration boat works in the nation, Reuben Smith's Tumblehome Boat Shop. The highly anticipated visit allowed us to see many historically significant boats in the process of restoration, each one of them being restored as nearly to original construction as possible, using specialized tools and techniques from both past and present to accomplish each project. The boats in the facility had a long and well researched history, and mark a place in time where they were created and used. It was inspiring to see these wonderful boats being brought back to life.

We looked at a 1926 Sound Interclub Racing Sloop, originally from Long Island Sound, LOA 28'9", beam 7'10". One of a fleet of 28 Marconi rigged sloops, designed by Henry Nevins and built at the Nevins boat yard, City Island NY, they sailed and raced on Long Island Sound until the late 1930s. As many as ten of them eventually made their way to Lake George in the 1940s, where they continued to sail and race. Only 5 of them remain worldwide, 4 of them at Tumblehome, 2 of those, the "Ghost" and the "Caprice" restored and relaunched on Lake George, now residing in the Tumblehome showroom.



The next 2 photos are of the “Indian” below, a speedboat built in 1903. With detailed mahogany paneling, and an elegant torpedo type stern, this boat was originally propelled by a variable pitch prop to adjust the speed. She is a H.J. Leighton launch, and was a true speedboat of her day. Leighton’s boats won the Gold Cup races in 1905, 1906, and 1907. He was famous for his two cycle multi-cylinder engines and Indian was originally powered with one of these. She was likely built by Leyare, in Ogdensburg, NY and is carvel-planked cedar on oak. She is 30’ long with a 5’6” beam, and is a semi-displacement hull. Her original engine ran at 18 mph. She will be re-powered with a modern electric 20 KW motor, and a lithium ion battery back, and will make at least the same speed.



**President’s Message**

*continued from page 1*

engineer with Imperial Wall Covering Co. but was better known for all the furniture he built for family members. I was fond of both John and Anne and John will be missed by many.



Having spent plenty of years on Lake Champlain we all are accustomed to changeable weather so no guarantees but the breakwater will be back and boating season will start. Hope to see everybody in their boats real soon!



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The following is excerpted from an article by Jenny Marchal, titled : *Science Explains How Staying Near Water Can Change Our Brains*

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**H**ave you ever felt at peace when you're walking by the ocean? A sense of rejuvenation when you stand by a waterfall? How about taking in the view of a breathtaking lake from your window? We can often report feeling a sense of calm when we're around water and scientists say, this is having a positive effect on our brains.

So what exactly is happening to our brains when we surround ourselves with water? Well, the calming effect is down to a vacation for our brains from overstimulation. Looking at water and listening to its sound puts our overloaded minds into a relaxed and hypnotic-like state with the benefit of this being a different way that our brain processes thoughts, leading to more calm and creative states and an increase our well-being.

Often referred to as blue space, the impact of the sea, rivers, lakes on our happiness and well-being is being researched much more by neuro-scientists and psychologists. Wallace J. Nichols, a marine biologist, has discussed and published the different ways bodies of water really can positively affect us and many psychologists have researched how just having blue space in front of you can boost your mental health.

When we hear the crashing of waves by the ocean, it can actually put us into a mindful, meditative state. The sound of waves has been found to alter the brain's wave patterns and invoking a meditative, relaxed state. Even simply observing the movement of water causes our minds to calm. This has numerous benefits for contributing to lowering depression, lowering stress levels, anxiety, and promotes better mental clarity and sleep patterns.

When we're near water, our brains switch off from busy mode to relaxed mode. This naturally leads our brains to open up because it's not focused on the millions of thoughts swirling around that can often lead to stress or anxiety. When your brain is in this relaxed state, it is open more to inspired and creative thoughts. In essence, we are switching our brains off or giving it a rest from the norm causing a better mental environment for insight and introspection.

Awe is an important factor in the recently popular science of positive psychology. The emotion of awe contributes greatly to our happiness because it not



Lake Champlain


© John Dupee

only allows us to be in the present moment but it causes us to think about our place in the world around us invoking a feeling of being humble, feelings of a connection to something beyond ourselves and the pure vastness of nature.

Exercising is obviously a good way to improve our mental well-being, however going for a run or walk by the ocean will increase these benefits ten fold. Going for a swim in a lake or cycling along a river trail will give you more of a mental boost than working out in a crowded city or gym environment. The idea is that being surrounded by blue space triggers a more positive benefit to exercising, with the intake of negative ions into our systems increasing.

The effects of positive and negative ions on our well-being have been considered a natural influence on how we feel. Positive ions are emitted by electrical appliances such as computers, microwaves and hairdryers that drains us of our natural energy whereas negative ions are generated by waterfalls, oceans waves, and thunderstorms. The rich amount of negative ions in the atmosphere accelerate our ability to absorb oxygen, balance levels of serotonin (the chemical linked to mood and stress), and contributes towards rejuvenating the mind and improving alertness and concentration.

Not only does being near water increase your sense of well-being, but being submerged in a natural source of water such as the sea or a lake invigorates your body greatly. The differing temperatures add benefits from both sides – the natural, cold chill can provide a soothing treatment for your nerves and refresh the body both mentally and physically while warmer waters during the summer can help relax muscles and tensions.

So, if you're looking to clear your head then search for some blue space – whether you're lucky enough to visit the ocean or just sitting near your local fountain, water has a powerful influence on the brain and can help change your mental clarity, capacity, happiness, and well-being. 





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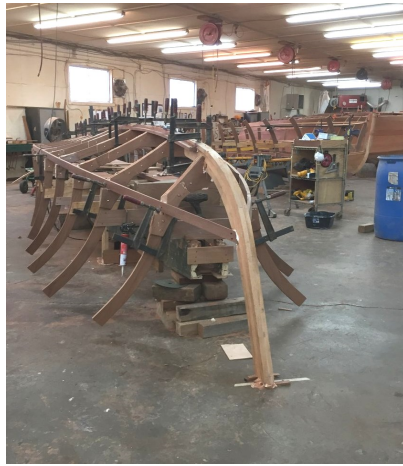
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by Susan Haig

On Saturday April 20th, 2019 Hacker Boat Company, owned by George Babcock, generously opened their doors to our Chapter allowing us to see their magnificent boats being constructed. There were about 20 attendees, and we were all impressed by the quality of workmanship and materials that go into each boat, as well as the number of boats being built. On this Saturday there were about 5 craftspeople working, keeping up with a production line of about 16-20 new custom boats being built each year as well as many restorations, repairs and retrofits. Our tour was guided by very knowledgeable staff, John Skinner, Restoration Manager and Sales Associate, and Sam Bowman, who has worked on these boats for 15 years and humbly regards himself as an apprentice. The discussion of how the runabout hull designs have changed from generation to generation was interesting, the smooth and slower ride the original Hacker runabout offered, and how now most customers want the faster design. The mahogany used is top of the line, nearing the quality used for musical instruments, and it is used for every stage of construction starting with the frame, the ribs made of laminating mahogany with 3M-5200, to the finish planking. Every boat is custom built to the owner's desires using the expertise of their Naval Architect, Jeff Brown, their Master Boat Builder, Tim Gautreau, and the craftspeople numbering about 28. The first half of the enormous shop had around 10 boats under various stages of construction. The second half held boats being restored. There was a machine shop building with fantastic tools, and a finish shop building, holding several more eye popping crafts. Below are pictures of the different stages of construction and the other parts of our tour.



Sam Bowman





Excerpted from *Woodshop News*

## Unraveling the Mysteries of Mahogany

By John English

It's gotta be the most confusing wood out there. Mahogany comes in many guises, including genuine, sapele, utile, Philippine, Spanish cedar, African and Fiji. In fact, some woods sold as mahogany aren't even family members. For woodshop buyers, here are some notes that might help clarify the choices.

Genuine mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*): The most popular species actually has many other names, too. These include Honduras, Peruvian, Bolivian, American, South American and bigleaf. The "genuine" title comes from the fact that early cabinetmakers and shipwrights used this species exclusively until it began to get a little scarce, after which those industries both turned to African and Asian substitutes.

Genuine mahogany is among the most workable woods available, in part because of its legendary stability. It has relatively even coloring and grain characteristics within the same board, but the color from tree to tree can vary quite a bit. Boards in a bunk can range from gray to red, so check with the warehouse on color or sift through the rack if possible when buying. Hardness can also be an issue: this species roams in specific gravity from about 0.39 to 0.56, so it can be as soft as poplar or harder than hard maple.

That huge variation in both color and hardness lets some suppliers substitute other less valuable species for genuine mahogany. Most notable among these is the relatively bland lauan, which is sold in the U.S. as Philippine mahogany. It is generally a little bit redder than the real thing and, while it is in itself a valuable material, lauan is simply not as attractive.

Genuine mahogany has a long history in both furniture and boatbuilding. It comes from a huge area of Central and South America, ranging from southern Mexico all the way through Brazil. The trees can be immense — up to 150 feet tall and more, with trunk diameters in mature trees at about 6 feet. Because of its stable nature, it can often be found in widths of 12" to 18", and sometimes even wider. For example, wholesaler J. Gibson McIlvain usually stocks boards up to 35" wide.

Restrictions by the Brazilian and Bolivian governments on harvesting and exporting during the last few years have turned buyers' attention to Peru, where a large amount of the native growth has been felled. However, this species is still in good supply at fairly reasonable prices. It is becoming less available, in large part because it doesn't do well as a farmed species. Genuine mahogany grows naturally as individual trees (usually fewer than five trees to the acre). When concentrated on farms where volume is essential to profit (that is, where trees are planted close together), it becomes very susceptible to insect damage.

Speaking of harvesting, one close cousin of genuine mahogany, commonly known as Cuban mahogany, was harvested so heavily during the last 400 years that it is no longer a viable commercial timber and only rarely appears on the market.

Genuine mahogany carves, cuts and turns beautifully and it is a pleasure to finish, although in some applications it does need a little grain filling. It behaves well with stains and dyes, and the rich color gives furniture and cabinetry a luxurious tone.

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**African mahogany** (*Khaya ivorensis*): This less expensive, but still beautiful, hardwood is found in a natural range that includes the Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon in West Africa. If one thinks of Africa as being shaped like the handle of a pistol, these countries are all around the area where the trigger would be. The climate here is tropical and Cameroon is home to some of the wettest places on the planet with annual rainfall in the neighborhood of 400". For perspective, the wettest spot in the continental U.S. is Aberdeen Reservoir in Washington, with about 130" annually.

All that heat and moisture delivers wood that has very consistent color and grain, with a light pink to deep red range of pigment. The word most commonly used to describe this species is "lustrous," which dictionaries define as having a sheen, gleam or radiance. These adjectives are usually associated with light and African mahogany does seem to glow when finished, especially as light rakes across a wide surface. The interlocking grain is usually straight, but crotches and other figured areas can be downright dramatic. When working this species, it feels a little heavier and harder than genuine mahogany and its variegated grain can appear as ribbons of light and dark color. There is little aroma and few woodworkers have noted allergies to it, but it does have a reputation for reacting with ferrous (iron-based) metals, so consider your hardware choices carefully. It can leave blackish stains if a reaction takes place.

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African mahogany is used in fine furniture and casework, architectural millwork, by luthiers for musical instruments, and also in window and door applications because, like genuine mahogany, it is quite resistant to water damage. In addition to ivorensis, the Khaya genus also includes several other commercially harvested species. Your wholesaler might offer anthotheca, grandifolia or senegalensis options, all of which are correctly described as African mahogany.

**Sapele** (*Entandrophragma cylindricum*): The third most popular option, sapele is a slightly smaller tree with mature diameters at about 4 to 5 feet. It grows right along the equator, from the Congo to Uganda, and also in Ghana and a few other spots in West Africa. Sapele is quite common as a veneer option for architectural millwork because of its dramatic light and dark ribbons when quartersawn. Machine dust from this species can be irritating, causing both skin and breathing problems, so a good dust collection system is a must. Despite that, it's very popular because it costs only about half the price of genuine mahogany. It's a relatively soft hardwood, a bit harder than other mahoganies, and it machines well.

Sapele is generally a little darker than other mahogany species, running more to brown than red. Flat-sawn boards are relatively uniform in color and grain, while quartersawn sapele is very distinctly striped. It can distort and move a little more than its cousins, too. The surface at times can be "hairy" because of the interlocked grain, and sanding can often produce better surfacing results than knives. A variant is pomelle sapele, which has a quilted surface that can reflect light in myriad directions, causing it to have exceptional depth and drama.

**Spanish cedar** (*Cedrela odorata*): This species is a member of the mahogany family and is most definitely neither a softwood nor a cedar. It grows throughout most of South America and especially in a swath from Bolivia to Columbia and west to Peru.

In color and grain, Spanish cedar looks a lot like genuine mahogany, although they smell very different. The former has an aroma that is decidedly similar to fresh-cut cedar, especially when milled. It is used in casework and millwork and often finds a home as a liner for closets and chests because it repels insects. As it is both lightweight and stable, Spanish cedar is a good choice for canoes, small boat hulls, musical instruments and even carving stock. It works well outdoors and is quite reasonably priced. And even though it doesn't weigh much, it's fairly strong structurally so it can be used in furniture, especially pieces that reside on decks and patios.

**Fiji mahogany** (*Swietenia macrophylla*): There has been a turbulent and somewhat troubled history of harvesting mahogany in Fiji. Much of it seems to involve allegations of both government and corporate corruption, with landowners there claiming that questionable leases were used by the government to harvest not just lumber, but also the landowners' profits. Last April, U.S. ambassador to Fiji Frankie Reid and representatives from the hardwoods industry attended the launch of Fiji Pure Mahogany, which is intended to ensure "sustainability, legality and the socially responsible use of this new hardwood brand."

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Fiji mahogany looks like a legitimate and sustainable alternative to more expensive native timber from both Africa and South America. There might still be some political issues attached to it that a woodshop might want to research, but for now some eminent U.S. corporations such as Gibson Guitar are already betting on this new brand.

**Sipo** (*Entandrophragma utile*): Often called simply utile, this species has been used in Europe for a long time as a mahogany substitute and is gaining popularity in the U.S. It is a relative of African mahogany that looks like a plain and somewhat darker version of sapele. It can be hard to dry in a kiln, but woodworkers like it because it behaves well around blades and that makes it a good choice for doors, windows and moldings. Utile has little bright flecks in it that reflect light.



Michael Sinclair

821 Ferry Road Charlotte, VT 05445

802, 528-9881

## Upcoming Events

- 6/20/19 ACBS Spring Meeting . Lake Hopatcong, NJ
- 6/22/19 Rendezvous Old Dock House ..... Essex, NY
- 7/6/19 Runabout Rendezvous ..... Saranac Lake, NY
- 7/27/19 Annual Vintage Boat Show .. Burlington, VT
- 8/31/19 Red Mill Rendezvous ..... Basin Harbor, VT



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# Registration Due: July 1st



Lake Champlain 34th Annual  
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July 27th, 2019  
Burlington Boat House  
Burlington, Vermont



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I have made *Overnight Dockage Reservations* for: July 26\_\_\_\_\_ July 27\_\_\_\_\_

*Overnight Dockage Additional...* Call The Burlington Boathouse, at 802-865-3377 for reservations.

ACBS Member Registration Fee \$40 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Non-Member Registration Fee \$80 \$\_\_\_\_\_  
Includes ACBS Membership and Show Insurance

Additional Boats \$25 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Buffet Dinner & Awards \$\_\_\_\_\_

# Of Guests \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$50 Each

TOTAL Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

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18 Elm Terrace  
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*Questions?*

Steve Pond: Tel: 802-363-3063 Email: [bessianna.sp@gmail.com](mailto:bessianna.sp@gmail.com)

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## INSURANCE AND FOREIGN MATTER WAIVER FOR ALL BOAT ENTRANTS.

This statement certifies that I am the owner of the boat described on the reverse side. I am entering it in the Lake Champlain ACBS Vintage Boat Show promoted by Lake Champlain Antique and Classic Boat Society, Inc. Taking place at the Burlington Boathouse and being held on July 27, 2019.

Owners that want their boats judged are encouraged to be present at their boat when it is being judged. By registering a boat to be judged, the owners explicitly grant permission for the judges to board their boat as may be needed to properly judge it, should the owner not be present. Judges are experienced in these matters and take due care, however owners agree that neither judges nor the sponsoring organization nor ACBS are liable for any damage that may occur during the judging process.

Further, I certify that I currently have effective insurance to cover any damage to my boat, and to cover my liability for any damages to others, or their property, arising from any use of my boat during this event.

I hold free and harmless the officers and volunteers of ACBS, Inc. and the Lake Champlain Antique and Classic Boat Society, Inc., the owners and staff of the Burlington Boathouse, any sponsors and or advertisers from any and all actions, claims, liabilities assertions of liability which in any manner arise be alleged to arise from any and all activities with the entry of, and use of, my boat connected directly or proximately with the boat show listed above.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND ON FILE BEFORE ENTERING THE BOAT SHOW AREA.** Thank you for your cooperation.





# Lake Champlain ACBS Vintage Boat Show Registration Form



IF THE PICTURE AND DESCRIPTION ON FILE ARE UP TO DATE  
NO ACTION REQUIRED...  
CHANGES... PLEASE NOTE ON THIS FORM  
AND/OR SEND NEW PHOTO AS 4" X 6" JPEG 72DPI.

To GUARANTEE Proper Exhibit Space and Judging PLEASE Complete EVERY Category Below and Return

Lake Champlain ACBS Practices Skipper Judging Judge: Yes  No

**Boat Information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Boat Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_ Beam \_\_\_\_\_ Draft \_\_\_\_\_  
Builder / Designer \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_



**Classification:** Historic  Antique  Classic   
Built up to and including 1918 Built 1919-1942, inclusive Built 1943-1975, inclusive  
Late Classic   
Built after 1975-1993, inclusive (exceptions apply).  
Contemporary   
Wooden boat built within the last 25 years

~ These age classifications apply to both boats and motors.



**Class:** Runabout Cannot Walk Between Cockpits  Utility Can walk Between Seats   
Lapstrake Utility Side Planks Overlap  Cruiser  Outboard  Sail  Launch  Race Boat   
Contemporary Replica  Pulling Boat  Other: \_\_\_\_\_



**Boat Condition:** Preserved  Restored  Engine: Original  Re-Powered   
Engine Mfg. \_\_\_\_\_ IB \_\_\_\_\_ OB \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ # Cylinders \_\_\_\_\_ HP \_\_\_\_\_ Sail Rig \_\_\_\_\_



**Additional Boat Information:**

On a separate page, please send us as much information about your boat entry as possible... Including...

*Photo:* For the boat show program... *History:* Boat Designer... Previous owners and home ports. The story behind the boat's name... How did it get to Lake Champlain... Major renovations and by whom... Wood description...

Awards and articles of interest... Any other things unique and of general interest to the boating public...