

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020 SCHOOL YEAR

*October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020*



# STAFF & BOARD

## Board of Directors

Sonja Mathews, President; Brand Management Consultant  
Kathleen Brooker, Vice President; Historic Preservation Consultant  
David Blessing, Secretary; Nuclear Power Engineering Consultant  
Michael Delagarza, Treasurer; Business Manager at Champion Video Productions  
Linda Newland, Board Member; Maritime Attorney and Former School District Administrator  
Lynn Schwarz, Board Member; Retired from Executive Administration in Biotech Startups  
Stephen Sklar, Board Member; Financial Advisor at Edward Jones (through 2/2021)

## Instructional Staff

Sean Koomen, Chief Instructor  
Bruce Blatchley, Boatbuilding Instructor  
Jody Boyle, Boatbuilding Instructor  
Leland Gibson, Boatbuilding Instructor  
Kevin Ritz, Marine Systems Lead Instructor  
Andy Blehm, Marine Systems Assistant Instructor (through 12/2020; then to his business AB Marine Systems)  
Jordan Primus, Marine Systems Instructor (started 2/2021)

## Additional Staff

Betsy Davis, Executive Director  
Katie Whalen, Business Manager  
Jim Argites, Shop and Facilities Manager  
Heidi Blehm, Admissions and Student Services Manager  
Laura Prendergast, Marketing Manager  
Antonio Romero, VetCorps Member  
Christina Ruben, Student Affairs Manager  
Karen Wyman, Librarian (through 12/2020)  
Beverly Moore, Librarian (started 2/2021)

# MISSION

*To teach and preserve boatbuilding and marine systems skills while developing the individual as a craftsperson.*

*This report covers the school's activities for the 2020 school year October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020.*

Jordan Primus joined the Marine Systems faculty at NWSWB in 2021. He launched his career as a marine technician with fabrication and rigging installation in the Virgin Islands, later servicing a fleet of 50 boats in Berkeley, California. Jordan was a student in the Contemporary Boatbuilding program at NWSWB, class of 2011, and stayed on to work on the Bob Perry-designed yacht Sliver build until the middle of 2013. He honed his skills during six years at CSR Marine in Seattle and also worked a stint with the Port of Edmonds.

*"The love of boats and working on them offers a great opportunity for personal and professional growth. There are few fields that incorporate such a wide variety of skills - there's always something new to learn."*



After graduating with a B.A. from St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, Laura Prendergast launched a career in graphic design and marketing, with a focus on helping small businesses. Originally from Texas, she found her way to Washington via Colorado when her mountain climbing partner (and husband) decided it was time to fulfill his dream of attending the Boat School. In 2012 they rented a cottage across the street from the school and she relished her 6-mile kayak commute to Pygmy Boats, where she worked as Marketing Director for nine years before joining NWSWB in 2020.

*"I have experienced the deep satisfaction of building my own wooden kayak, thoroughly enjoy empowering others to build their own boats, and feel passionately about the need for hands-on learning in a modern world."*



Jody Boyle started his woodworking career in 1998, building custom furniture and cabinetry and working in the wood shop at the Martha's Vineyard Shipyard. In 2003, he graduated from the Arques School of Traditional Boatbuilding in Sausalito, California, and became co-owner of North Bay Boat Works on the Sausalito waterfront, building and repairing wooden boats from 2003 to 2014. He moved to the Pacific Northwest in 2014 and began teaching at NWSWB in 2015.

*"I enjoy working in this educational environment. We are teaching not only boatbuilding and repair, but also problem-solving and how to work effectively as a team."*



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Boat School has deep roots in Jefferson County. Founded 40 years ago by three of this county's icons of service, education, and craftsmanship (Libby Palmer, Henry Yeaton, and Bob Prothero), many of our graduates have gone on to work in the local marine trades, which fuels 20% of the local economy. Some even run local businesses and non-profits including Haven Boatworks, Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op, Edensaw Woods, Brent Davis Construction, and the Port Townsend School of Woodworking. The Boat School campus is home to kindred spirit organizations including the Ajax Café, NW Sails & Canvas, and the Community Boat Project. We came through a hard time together, sharing best practices on everything from pandemic safety protocols to facilitating Zoom events. Speaking of digital technologies, what began as a way to move classroom instruction online for the safety of our students became a tool to deliver Master Classes on boatbuilding and marine systems to a global audience and to open events to participants in other time zones.

It's important to note that 2020 wasn't just about surviving a storm. We also doubled the capacity of our Marine Systems Program, a critical milestone in our 5-year, \$3 million capital campaign to expand and improve Boat School facilities, curriculum, and student services, just in time for the school's 40th Anniversary in 2021.



*Betsy Davis*

## LETTER FROM THE CHIEF INSTRUCTOR



One of the pleasures of wooden boatbuilding is the lifelong learning that takes place formally and informally at boatyards, marinas, and boat festivals around the world. I was honored to kick off Port Townsend's first-ever Virtual Wooden Boat Festival in September 2020 with a presentation on lofting. Thankfully, I already had some experience giving virtual lectures, because that's one of the ways we kept things safe for NWSWB students during the pandemic. We improvised a broadcast studio with multiple cameras that allowed us to replicate the classroom environment online, and we handed out tablets so students could watch the lectures without gathering in a classroom. What began as a COVID-19 safety measure became a tool we've been using for special

events like online Master Classes in boatbuilding and marine systems available to a worldwide audience. We're also using technologies like Zoom to take students on virtual field trips and to "bring in" guest speakers to share their expertise without traveling to the Boat School campus. We've been sharing best practices for pandemic safety protocols and remote learning with similar institutions across the nation, including The Landing School in Maine, the IYRS School of Technology & Trades in Rhode Island, and the Great Lakes Boat Building School in Michigan – all of us subscribing to the belief that a rising tide lifts all boats (and boat schools).



*Sean Koomen*

## LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

How do you plan for a global pandemic? As a board, we didn't have by-laws for that, but we did have a clear sense of our purpose as a school – providing students with a quality education and providing staff with a good work environment. From there we relied on familiar disciplines -- stretch goals, action steps and metrics for measuring the impact -- augmented by digital technologies. It turns out that good business practices, established during a period of stability, work really well in a crisis. We continued to operate off our strategic plan, slowing down on some efforts, speeding up on others, and adding new COVID-based requirements.

It has been a challenging year, but the impact of the changes has been positive. We're better at rapid scenario planning and response, so we have better institutional agility. Using digital technologies, we have broader reach and connectivity to board members and other school advocates. Location isn't a barrier anymore.

When we gathered via Zoom to celebrate the graduation of the class of 2020 (with friends and family from around the world!), we were celebrating more than the new skillsets of our graduates and the jobs that awaited them in an industry hungry for skilled workers. We were celebrating the resourcefulness and discipline it took for students and instructors to stay safe and productive in the midst of a global pandemic while carrying forward the founders' vision to teach and preserve craftsmanship.



*Sonja Mathews*

# PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION & JOB PREPAREDNESS

NWSWB programs are accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Career Schools and Colleges ([www.accsc.org](http://www.accsc.org)) and are licensed by the State of Washington Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board ([www.wtb.wa.gov](http://www.wtb.wa.gov)).

## CLASS OF 2020

Haven Boatworks; Port Townsend, WA  
 Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op  
 Chesapeake Bay Maritime - St. Michaels, Maryland  
 Devlin Designing Boats - Olympia, WA  
 ACI/Goldstar Marine - Port Townsend, WA  
 Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding, WA  
 9 students are continuing their education at NWSWB moving from Boatbuilding into the Marine Systems program or into a different Boatbuilding program next year.

## CLASS OF 2019

Platypus Marine; Port Angeles, WA  
 State of Alaska; Anchorage, AK  
 Port of Port Townsend; PT, WA  
 Turn Point Design; Port Townsend, WA  
 Haven Boatworks; Port Townsend, WA  
 Cutwater Marine Srvcs, Alexander City, AL  
 Northwest Maritime Center; PT, WA  
 Goldstar Marine/ACI Boats; PT, WA  
 Spindrift Rowing; Port Townsend, WA  
 Ebb Tide Tech; Sequim, WA  
 US Naval Destroyer Museum; Bremerton, WA

## FAST FACTS-CLASS '20

- 47 enrolled
- 18 military veterans
- Ages: 18-69
- From 20 different states
- 23 Traditional Boatbuilding
- 4 Contemporary Boatbuilding
- 20 Marine Systems
- 19 graduated from the Boatbuilding program with Associate of Occupational Studies Degrees
- 20 graduated from the Marine Systems program with Diplomas



Demian Detweiler  
 Classes of 2019 & 2020  
 Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op  
 Port Townsend, WA



CW Clarke  
 Class of 2020  
 Haven Boatworks  
 Port Townsend, WA



Aiona Hartley  
 Class of 2020  
 Anacortes Yacht Charters  
 Anacortes, WA



Tom Drews  
 Classes of 2019 & 2020  
 SP Systems  
 Burien, WA



Megan Hahn  
 Class of 2020  
 Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op  
 Port Townsend, WA



Carolyn Corbin  
 Class of 2020  
 Acorn to Arabella Project  
 Grant, MA

*“In so many ways, the Marine Systems course made me fearless. It taught me the most critical things to avoid and how to find the resources to do anything.”*

*Tom Drews, Field Service Engineer, SP Systems*

## WHERE DID THE CLASS OF '20 COME FROM?

Alaska	1	New York	1
Arizona	1	Oklahoma	1
California	2	Oregon	1
Colorado	1	Pennsylvania	1
Georgia	1	Texas	1
Idaho	1	Virginia	1
Kansas	1	Washington	26
Maryland	2	Wyoming	1
Minnesota	1		
Nevada	1		

# PRESERVING AND DEVELOPING CRAFTSMANSHIP

Education at the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding is hands-on and real world — designed to replicate a working boat yard, but with closer supervision and the time to practice each skill to develop confidence, competency, and craftsmanship.

## CLEAN BAY

### TRADITIONAL LOOKS WITH CONTEMPORARY TECHNOLOGY



There is an unusual boat taking shape in the Hammond Shop at the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding. At first glance, it resembles a traditional Northwest troller, but the beam is unusually narrow, and it's fitted with a 500 gallon wastewater tank amidships. Inside are heavy-duty shelves for the 48V batteries that will drive the propulsion system. The finished boat will have flexible solar panels to help keep those batteries charged when the boat is underway.

Meet Clean Bay, a 25' zero-emissions workboat that will provide free pump-outs to boaters in Port Ludlow Bay. The project came together through a collaboration with local marine businesses, private donors, and state agencies aligned around a common goal of promoting environmental stewardship – from its zero-emission propulsion system to its role in keeping waterways clean of wastewater. Clean Bay has already been recognized by the state's Maritime Blue Initiative for modeling effective use of zero-emissions systems for workboats.

NWSWB is unique among top-tier boatbuilding schools for the range and number of builds it undertakes each year – students learn side-by-side with instructors as they work out the details for that particular day sailor, skiff, motor launch, or work boat. With the Clean Bay project instructors are building a new design themselves while also working with new technologies. They are modeling the collaboration with designers and problem solving that are integral to boatbuilding and custom systems design. “We are teaching and deploying state-of-the-art systems and propulsion technology for which, in many cases, standards have yet to be written,” says Marine Systems Lead Instructor Kevin Ritz.

“We’re not just building boats,” says Contemporary Boatbuilding Instructor Bruce Blatchley. “Our main product is education.”

## THE POULSBO BOAT

### PRESERVING A TRADITIONAL PACIFIC NORTHWEST BOAT DESIGN

Real-world projects like the Poulsbo boat are carefully selected by instructors to serve as strong teaching platforms. After its construction by students in the Traditional Boatbuilding program, the students in the Marine Systems program completed the project by installing the diesel engine, steering and controls and electrical system. From planking to electrical systems, the Poulsbo represents a symbiosis of hands-on education that's keeping traditions alive while meeting the needs of the trades.

“What makes the Boat School special is the total immersion in boatbuilding,” explains Traditional Boatbuilding Instructor Leland Gibson. “We’re not building kit boats. We’re not building simple boats. We spend 2,000 hours teaching students how to build complex boats with no compromises as to quality or craftsmanship.”



# BRINGING VITALITY TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

## Creating career pathways

The Boat School brings vitality to the local community by preparing the next generation of boatbuilders and systems technicians for living wage employment in the marine trades. Tyler Johnson (Boatbuilding class of 2019 and Marine Systems class of 2020) now works as a mechanic, electrician, and woodworker at Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op. "After taking advantage of every opportunity the Boat School offered, I found my dream job working on a large variety of commercial and recreational boats. It's a wonderful feeling knowing your work counts. If you are interested in the trade, this is a perfect avenue into honing your skillset for the workforce."



## Serving those who served

Since 2016 the Boat School has been designated as a "Veteran Supportive Campus" by the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs.



In 2020, the agency once again awarded the school a VetCorps member position to serve as a resource to military veterans, who typically account for 25 to 30 percent of the student body. Antonio Romero was selected to fill the roll for the 2019-2020 school year. Antonio, who served in the U.S. Coast Guard before attending the Traditional Boatbuilding program at NWSWB, observes that "the school has done a phenomenal job of laying the foundation, educating themselves, and building a veteran supportive environment. I feel privileged to be part of that."



## Celebrating Lowest Hadlock

The Boat School's 7-acre waterfront campus in Port Hadlock brought work to the construction trades, even during COVID. In August work began on the new Marine Systems building.



Early in the year the school completed the rehabilitation of a former garage which now serves as meeting and administrative space. In August rehabilitation work began on the historic Galster House, built in the late 1890s, and home to the Ajax Cafe.



## PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Preserving craftsmanship and ensuring relevance

Marine businesses and educators are represented on the school's Program Advisory Committee, which provides regular input on the school's curriculum. Their focus ensures the school's education programs offer high quality training and stay relevant to the employers. We are grateful to the individuals listed below for their service on the committee.

**Tammy Anstatt;** Marine Systems Manufacturer Rep, Derema Group  
**Ann Avary;** Director, Northwest Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing & Technology  
**Steve Bamesberger;** Marine Systems Manufacturer Rep, Jack Park Company  
**John Mark Barrett;** Marine Systems Manufacturer Rep, Imtra Corporation  
**Eron Berg;** Executive Director, Port of Port Townsend  
**Chris Bergnoli;** Member-Owner, Port Townsend Shipwright's Co-op  
**Ethan Cook;** Boatbuilder  
**Brandon Davis;** Owner, Turnpoint Design  
**Sarah Fiskens;** Marine Operations Specialist, Washington Sea Grant  
**Jim Franken;** James J. Franken, Inc.  
**Stephen Gale;** Owner, Haven Boatworks

**David King;** Retired CFO Townsend Bay Marine and Past Mayor of Port Townsend  
**Dieter Loibner,** Editor at Large, Professional Boatbuilder  
**Scott McEniry;** Manufacturer's Representative, Power Products  
**Jake McFaddin,** Marine Electrician and Project Manager, Schooner Creek  
**Dan Newland;** President, Pegasus Aeromarine  
**Peter Proctor;** Owner, Proctor Boat Company  
**Gordon Sanstad;** Shipwright, Former Instructor at Seattle Central Community College  
**Heron Scott;** Executive Director, Port Townsend School of Woodworking  
**Jim Tolpin,** Founder and Instructor, Port Townsend School of Woodworking

# FINANCIALS

For the school and fiscal year ending September 30, 2020 the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding completed the year net positive and grew net assets. Notably over \$1,000,000 of contributions were reported thanks to gifts from individuals, grants from foundations and the State of Washington, and a \$500,000 COVID relief grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Overall, 67% of the expenses went directly to programs, with 22% for Administration, 9% for Fundraising, and 2% property expenses. Each dollar earned or contributed is extended thanks to the hours committed by generous and dedicated volunteers.

<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>						
	<b>9/30/2020</b>	<b>9/30/2019</b>	<b>9/30/2018</b>	<b>9/30/2017</b>	<b>9/30/2016</b>	<b>9/30/2015</b>
Tuition	<b>564,144</b>	<b>\$675,543</b>	<b>\$833,533</b>	<b>\$707,552</b>	<b>\$1,059,093</b>	<b>\$955,858</b>
Donations including COVID Relief	<b>1,633,597</b>	<b>1,158,249</b>	<b>594,618</b>	<b>732,761</b>	<b>310,077</b>	<b>264,695</b>
Boat Projects	<b>22,607</b>	<b>63,195</b>	<b>134,572</b>	<b>130,286</b>	<b>135,414</b>	<b>206,705</b>
Retail Sales and Rental Income	<b>45,278</b>	<b>34,598</b>	<b>29,067</b>	<b>18,569</b>	<b>21,715</b>	<b>33,268</b>
In-Kind Revenue	<b>4,000</b>	<b>8,540</b>	<b>14,759</b>	<b>17,400</b>	<b>24,618</b>	<b>63,347</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,269,626</b>	<b>1,940,125</b>	<b>1,606,549</b>	<b>1,606,568</b>	<b>1,550,917</b>	<b>1,523,873</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSE</b>						
Program Service	<b>783,797</b>	<b>997,368</b>	<b>1,087,662</b>	<b>1,035,060</b>	<b>1,013,060</b>	<b>1,088,670</b>
Administration	<b>280,137</b>	<b>310,212</b>	<b>292,506</b>	<b>248,094</b>	<b>291,366</b>	<b>246,064</b>
Fundraising	<b>119,038</b>	<b>82,202</b>	<b>89,090</b>	<b>116,611</b>	<b>73,817</b>	<b>72,513</b>
Other - Rental Property	<b>7,665</b>	<b>13,092</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,190,637</b>	<b>1,402,874</b>	<b>1,469,258</b>	<b>1,399,765</b>	<b>1,378,243</b>	<b>1,407,247</b>
<b>Change in net assets from Operating Activities</b>	<b>1,078,989</b>	<b>537,251</b>	<b>137,291</b>	<b>206,803</b>	<b>172,674</b>	<b>116,626</b>
<b>OTHER REVENUE AND EXPENSE</b>						
Amortization	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(426)</b>	<b>(1,024)</b>	<b>(1,022)</b>	<b>(1,022)</b>
Depreciation	<b>91,105</b>	<b>(73,570)</b>	<b>(61,975)</b>	<b>(56,054)</b>	<b>(59,603)</b>	<b>(52,414)</b>
Interest Expense	<b>56,595</b>	<b>(83,301)</b>	<b>(72,765)</b>	<b>(49,295)</b>	<b>(44,450)</b>	<b>(44,107)</b>
<b>Total Other Revenue and Expense</b>	<b>(147,700)</b>	<b>(156,871)</b>	<b>(135,166)</b>	<b>(106,373)</b>	<b>(105,075)</b>	<b>(97,543)</b>
<b>Total Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>931,289</b>	<b>380,380</b>	<b>2,125</b>	<b>100,430</b>	<b>67,599</b>	<b>19,083</b>
<b>Net Assets - beginning of year</b>	<b>1,816,050</b>	<b>1,435,672</b>	<b>1,433,547</b>	<b>1,333,117</b>	<b>1,265,518</b>	<b>1,246,435</b>
<b>Net Assets - end of year</b>	<b>2,747,339</b>	<b>\$1,816,052</b>	<b>\$1,435,672</b>	<b>\$1,433,547</b>	<b>\$1,333,117</b>	<b>\$1,265,518</b>

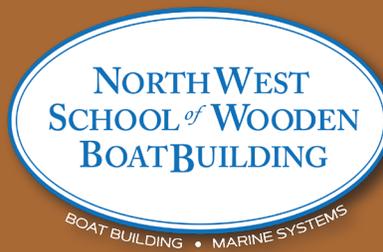
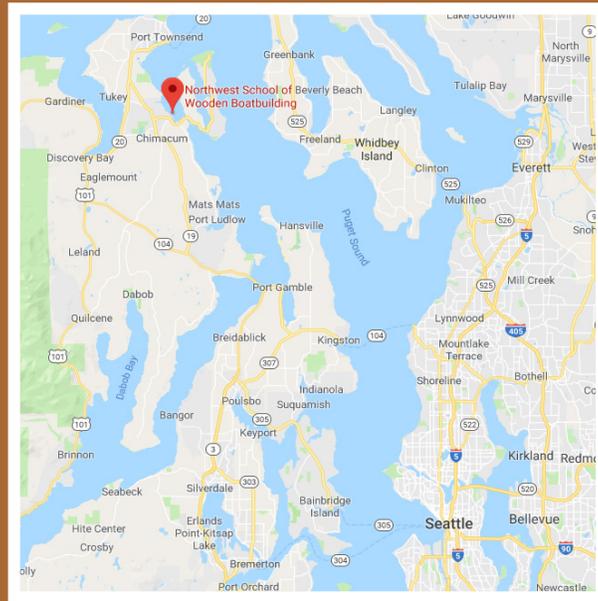
The Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding engaged Baker, Overby and Moore, Inc., P.S. to conduct an independent audit of our financial statements for the year ending September 30, 2020. They reported the following: "In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding as of September 30, 2020, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."



NWSWB is deeply committed to non-profit transparency and accountability and has achieved the GuideStar Platinum Level Profile as a demonstration of that commitment. GuideStar is the world's largest source of information about non-profit organizations (the GuideStar database contains a profile for every tax-exempt nonprofit registered with the IRS) and a leader in advancing transparency in the non-profit sector. To be awarded the GuideStar logo, NWSWB provided all requested information on the non-profit profile page. You can search for information about any non-profit at [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org).

# WHERE WE ARE

Learn about all that's happening at the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding by signing up to receive our free monthly electronic newsletter. You may also want to join one of our virtual Admissions Open Houses. Sign ups for both are on our website at [www.nswwb.edu](http://www.nswwb.edu).



Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding  
Port Hadlock Heritage Campus  
42 N. Water Street, Port Hadlock, WA 98339  
360-385-4948 | [info@nswwb.edu](mailto:info@nswwb.edu) | [www.nswwb.edu](http://www.nswwb.edu)

The Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC). The Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) is a recognized accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education. Learn more at [www.accsc.org](http://www.accsc.org).



The School is also licensed under the Private Vocational Schools Act, Chapter 28C.10 RCW of Washington State. [www.wtb.wa.gov](http://www.wtb.wa.gov)