

Tidewater WOODEN BOAT WORKSHOP

Life Skills Through Boatbuilding



Workshop News

Issue 14
April 2024

At the Workshop Winter Program Recap

The workshop was full of activity this winter with over 80 youths participating in boatbuilding projects at the shop. We are pleased that so many of them were returnees from our fall trimester.



The home school and after school kids began building two new boats. First-time students started work on an 8-foot pram, while the experienced boatbuilders began another Tidewater-14. They got a great start and construction on both boats will continue during the spring trimester.



For the ninth consecutive year TWBW teamed with Sail Nauticus Academy. That program's eighth grade sailors were busy converting a completed Tidewater-14 rowboat into a sailboat. The students constructed the mast, spars, daggerboard, daggerboard case and rudder. Some of them had a first-time experience of using a sewing machine to make the sail for the boat.

Spring Program

TWBW's spring trimester got underway on April 8th. There are 60 youths enrolled in the program. Once again, many of them were participants in our fall and/or winter programs. They are working diligently to complete the 8-foot pram, and to finish planking and *continued on page 2...*

Please Support Us

Make your donation on our website:
www.twbw.org

Or, if you prefer, mail your donation to our address listed on page two of this newsletter.

* Although April 23rd is designated as the GL757 "Annual Day of Giving," the website is open now for early gift giving if you choose to donate today.



Director's Message

Dear Friends,

TWBW is once again participating in the Give Local 757 campaign. This annual event, sponsored by the Peninsula Community Foundation, helps Hampton Roads organizations like TWBW raise the funds needed to deliver services to those in need. While the official "Giving Day" is April 23rd, the GL 757 portal is already open for contributions if you would like to donate now. Gifts to TWBW will help support our upcoming summer camp season and fall boatbuilding programs.

Since the summer of 2015, over 1600 youths have benefitted from our unique programs and we continue to see increasing numbers of kids enrolling each year. I hope you will help us to continue making a difference in their lives by supporting TWBW during Give Local 757.

Sincerely,
Tom Brandl

President's Message

Our entire Board of Directors attended the Virginia Center for Inclusive Community's annual awards event on March 21 to celebrate Tom Brandl. Tom received the Humanitarian Award from VCIC (formerly the National Conference of Christians and Jews) for his exceptional work at TWBW. We were delighted that Tom's efforts were recognized and pleased to introduce our Workshop to a new audience.

"Inclusive" and "inclusion" are not words you will find in our Mission Statement or governing documents. But we have always striven to be a place where kids feel safe and everyone is welcome. We don't provide transportation, but we have always proclaimed that if a student can get to our Workshop, they may participate in any program we offer. The ever-increasing number of teens who return for the next trimester and the next is the best evidence we have that we are accomplishing our goal of providing a meaningful and secure experience.

Without our donors, of course, we would have nothing to offer anyone. Your ongoing support ensures that piles of lumber can be transformed into rowboats and oars and sailboats, that our students can learn STEM and life skills, and that we can partner with other non-profits to share our magic with as many kids as possible. We are so grateful for the confidence you place in us by investing your dollars in our programs. Please stop by the Workshop to see for yourself the difference you are making in the lives of our teens.

Marie Finch, President
TWBW Board of Directors

At the Workshop (cont...)

installing frames in the Tidewater-14. The trimester will end with the students rowing and sailing the boats built over the past school year.

Pre-Apprentice Program

TWBW's third Pre-Apprentice program began January 8th with nine students enrolled in the program. After two weeks of shop safety



and tool familiarization training, the apprentices got busy on their first project: constructing their own tool box. Since then, they have built saw horses and a new wood steaming box for the shop. After that, work began on a 12-foot Bevin's Skiff rowboat. Besides carpentry skills, the apprentices are developing skills that employers in all trades seek in their workforce. The course is scheduled to conclude in early June.

New Project at ForKids

TWBW is continuing its partnership with ForKids, Inc., begun last fall. Seven high school students in that nonprofit's youth program are building a 12-foot Bevin's Skiff rowboat at the Landmark Center in South Norfolk. The project got underway on February 20th. The teens have been making good progress and are on track to complete the boat and row it before the end of the school year.



Adult Boatbuilding Underway

TWBW's 2023 adult boatbuilding program kicked off in January with 10 students enrolled in the course. They are making great progress building a 12-foot Bevin's Skiff rowboat. The course is scheduled to conclude by the end of June.



A Mother's Gratitude

It can be difficult to measure the positive impact TWBW programs have on the students who participate in them. This is especially true when it comes to "soft" skills and social/emotional development. For these we often rely on feedback from parents, teachers and our partnering organizations to help us determine the effectiveness of our programs. As an example, the following is an excerpt from a letter we received from a mom whose three sons have participated in our programs:

"Your place is such a beacon of light, shining goodness all around. I'm so thankful, as many are, of your willingness to take an idea and implement it in such a fashion to actually change history in peoples lives. Keep up the marvelous work. Saving lives one by one ... you don't even realize the full impact of what is going on here. It reaches generations."

TWBW Accepting Applications for Summer Camps

June 17– July 27, 2024

Ages: 10 - 18

Camps are one week long, Monday – Friday

Half day (9am – 12pm)

Cost: Free

Activities include:

- Boat and model building
- Shop and tool skills
- Nautical arts and crafts
- Rowing and Sailing
- Environmental Science

Campers must provide their own transportation.

To register, or for further information, please contact us at: admindir@twbw.org. Slots will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

Contacting TWBW

E-Mail: contact@twbw.org

Telephone: (757) 937-6812

U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 1243, Norfolk, VA 23501

Workshop Address: 910 Ballentine Blvd.,
Norfolk, VA 23504

Web Site: www.twbw.org

Please like us on [Facebook](#)

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, September 14, 2024
TWBW 8th Annual Open House

11 am – 2 pm

Boat Exhibits Kids' Activities

Boatbuilding / Workshop Demos

Silent Auction and Boat Sales

Refreshments and Entertainment

**Mark your calendar to join us for
a fun-filled afternoon
as we celebrate the accomplishments
of our young boatbuilders**