



Maine's First Ship Newsletter

SPECIAL EDITION
AUGUST 2012
EDUCATION
PROGRAMS

SUMMER SHIPBUILDING PROGRAM 7/10/12 - DAY ONE: SQUARING THE MAIN YARD

EDUCATIONAL SHIPWRIGHT GEORGE SPRAGUE DEMONSTRATING THE USE OF AN ADZ WHILE PREPARING TO SQUARE THE FIRST SIDE OF THE MAIN YARD SPAR



Bianca D'Arcangelo, Charles Mills, Eric Varney, George Sprague, Caleb Burgess, Jay Coffey, Rob Stevens, Tim Teague

On day one of the Maine's First Ship Summer Shipbuilding Program, the sound of axes, adz and steel wedges on a white pine ship's spar sounded from the Bath waterfront after many years of absence. The 2012 program focused on creating spars for *Virginia's* main mast from these logs. Students learned and applied mathematical calculations of the cuts required to produce the spar diameter and taper. Working with power and hand tools, students completed the 32' main yard (which carries the large square sail). The smaller (18') alternate main mast spar, known as the crowjack, was close to completion at the end of this year's formal program. Supported by adult volunteers, students are also still working on the crowjack and a demonstration log that will show each phase of spar construction, from raw log to taper finish, along the 8' length. When completed This demonstration log will be proudly displayed at Morse High School. Summer Shipbuilding Program students also learned about sail types, basic standing rigging, rowing and the history of the first *Virginia* and the colonists who built her.



Shipwright George Sprague chainsawing stopping cuts

SHAPING THE SPARS

A square of the desired size is carefully centered over each end of the newly harvested white pine log. After the bark is removed, one side of the log is leveled to create a reference plane used to square the other three sides of the log. Making the first level log face employs many different kinds of power and hand tools. Waste material between the rough chainsawn stopping cuts, made down the length of the log, is quickly cleared with ax and adz, chisel and sledgehammer. Wood planers, sanders and other hand tools are then used to finish leveling. Depending on the size, length and taper needed in the finished spar, the log may be further dimensioned to eight, sixteen or even thirty-two sides.

Maine's First Ship 2012 Summer Shipbuilding Program underwritten by the Bath Freight Shed Alliance, Regional School Unit #1's Morse High School and Bath Iron Works Corporation.

In a creative collaboration of local non-profits, RSU#1 and local business, the Bath Freight Shed Alliance has generously supported the Maine's First Ship 2012 Summer Shipbuilding Program. Morse High School again provided a forum for recruiting, screening and awarding academic credit for the students. Safety equipment and training was again provided by Bath Iron Works.

By participating in the proven MFS Summer Shipbuilding Program conducted annually with local students, these organizations found the fast track to another successful community program.

The eight local students between the ages of 13 and 16 years of age participating this year, for the first time included a homeschooler. We asked two of our students, who have participated for three consecutive years, what they wanted people to know about their experience with MFS.

Kelsey Brick (Early Graduation Program Senior): "Sure I could stay home and watch TV all summer but why would I do that if I can come here and learn something new and interesting every day?"

*Charles Mills (Junior): "This is the very **best** thing about summer."*



Master Shipwright and *Virginia* volunteer Rob Stevens and Science teacher Eric Varney demonstrate the use of ax and sledge hammer in quickly removing large sections of precut waste while squaring the spar. Students Wesley Blum, Caleb Burgess and Charles Mills observe.

SUMMER SHIPBUILDING PROGRAM STUDENT PROFILES

Kelsey Brick - Accountant



Kelsey (right) and Bianca D'Arcangelo, sister and a second year student, study the class flip chart on how to square the spar

Second in a family of seven, Kelsey has strong sense of family responsibility that she balances gracefully with an intense academic program at Morse High. An Early Graduation Program participant, Kelsey will enter her third and final year at Morse in the fall.

With a goal of a degree in Accounting, Kelsey is already researching scholarships and grants to help fund her program at Nichols College.

Attracted by the historic nature of the project, the unexpected variety of the work has kept her coming back year after year. Kelsey likens her experience with Maine's First Ship to that of an extended family. She feels a similar sense of responsibility for the safety and success of other program participants, and has

enjoyed the exchange of ideas and life experiences with many of the adult volunteers much in the manner of elders within her own family.

Kelsey has found the media and documentary skills she learned studying with Patti Irish, while working on the Shallop Jane Stevens, very valuable in developing and presenting materials for her other classes at Morse High.

Pictured here with first year homeschooler Ruth Connelly and *Virginia* volunteer Cindi Compton, Kelsey is preparing to use her excellent math skills in laying out the taper for two opposing sides of the main mast crowjack spar. One side of the square spar is tapered and then leveled using saws, axes and chisels, then wood planers, sanders and other hand tools. The opposing face is tapered and finished in the same manner. Finally, the remaining two sides are laid out and finished using the same techniques, ending as a square spar which is tapered at both ends.



As Kelsey moves on to higher education, Maine's First Ship wishes her "Fair Winds and Following Seas". We hope having *Virginia's* sawdust in her shoes brings her back soon.

Charles Mills Musician and Engineer



Third in a family of four, Charles will enter his Junior year at Morse High this fall. With an eye towards an engineering degree, it's all about the tools with Charles. Working with many tools at MFS has given him the skills and confidence to accomplish household handyman jobs for his family.

Having a unique perspective on college applications, Charles is already busy sowing the seeds of his own college recruitment. By submitting samples of his work to various engineering colleges, he is inviting comments and eventually recruitment offers in return. Responses to date from Virginia Tech have been most favorable and placement there would also place Charles close to his maternal extended family.

Country music holds great fascination for Charles and his talents include a passion for drums and skill in both piano and guitar. Charles was a member of the musical ensemble that entertained during the highly successful "Rib Party" that crowned the 2011 MFS summer season.

Charles observes while Shipwright George Sprague demonstrates the saw control technique for the complex eight sided spar taper cut

A strong sense of responsibility to the safety and success of the program and all who work to build *Virginia* is a common thread that runs through all student and adult volunteers. Charles believes that mistakes will happen but they are only a problem if you *don't* take responsibility to fix it and make it safe, to make the ship *right*.

In shaping the final taper for the main yard spar, Charles carefully makes the first of four additional cuts at a 45 degree angle with a small preset skill saw along the 32' length of the spar. To bring the eight sided spar down to finished dimension and finish, a series of hand and power tools are used. Electric planers and hand planes are used first, the final finish is hand sanded.

MFS looks forward to another year of Charles' expert carpentry and mechanical skills, but before then we will again enjoy his musical talents during the Autumn fest weekend 2012 season wrap party.



The Student Spar



Second year students Bianca D’Arcangelo, Wesley Mellor and Justin MacNeil take a sanding break on the final day of the summer shipbuilding program.

Returning after a weekend students noted “their spar” had been worked by adult volunteers. By polite request, from that day forward only student hands worked the main yard spar.



Fini

Look for links to student posts from this year at the Freight Shed
<http://mfship.org>

Maine’s First Ship offers Education programs for younger students

A half dozen 10 year old Boy Scouts of America Weeblos visited Virginia’s construction site recently for a program designed to help them earn their Engineering Pin. *Virginia* volunteers Tim Teague and Jay Coffey spent two hours teaching these local Bath students about building Virginia using the ship’s plans, and simple machines. Orman Hines also spoke recently to a group of students from the Freeport Waldorf School about archeology at Fort St. George.



BROTHERS BY DIFFERENT MOTHERS (AND FATHERS)

Rob Stevens and Harlan met recently at the *Virginia* building site and had heads turning in disbelief to take another look. They say everyone has a twin and this case of déjà vu made believers out of many of us present. There is no genetic connection between the two, yet in a case of mistaken identity, Harlan’s daughter later chose the wrong “dad” in a photo taken the same day.

Board of Directors and Advisors August 2012

2012 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Hail and Farewell:

Welcome:

New board members: Howard Kirkpatrick and Paul Johnson

Fair winds and following seas:

Thank you to Merry Chapin who has served as our president and spokesperson while the new board elected in 2008 worked to reshape the organization. Merry will turn her exceptional focus to the Education Committee where her background and talents will continue to expand our innovative education programs.

Thank you and to longtime board members Rich Cromwell and Bob Kalish who are moving on to focus on other charitable and professional pursuits.

Thank you also to Steve Theodore for his long commitment as Vice President of Maine's First Ship and as Vessel Committee Chair. Although Steve is leaving office he will remain on the board as liaison between MFS and the Bath Freight Shed Alliance.

New officers elected at annual meeting:

President: Orman Hines
 Vice President: Vacant
 Secretary: Allison Hepler
 Treasurer: Gayla Teague

Committees:

Vessel Chair: Jeremy Blaiklock
 Education Chair: Merry Chapin
 Membership Chair: Vacant
 Publicity Chair: Gayla Teague
 Finance Chair: Gayla Teague
 Development Chair: Orman Hines
 Events Chair: Vacant

MFS is soliciting volunteers from the board to become vice president and to chair committees. Also being sought are member volunteers to join committee

THANK YOU VOLUNTEER WEBMASTER PATTI IRISH FOR YOUR EXCEPTIONAL WORK AND DEDICATION.

Officers	Directors
ORMAN HINES <i>President</i> Phippsburg	STEVEN THEODORE Arrowsic
VACANT <i>Vice-President</i>	TOMM TOMLINSON Rockport
GAYLA TEAGUE <i>Treasurer</i> Woolwich	ERIC J. VARNEY Bath
ALLISON HEPLER <i>Secretary</i> Woolwich	Maine's First Ship Office Monday & Wednesday Bath
	MARSHA CONOVER <i>Administrative Manager</i>
Directors	Advisory Committee
JEREMY BLAIKLOCK Arrowsic	JOHN W. BRADFORD <i>Vessel Design Leader</i> Yarmouth Sebasco Estates
TIM CLARK Rockport	CHUCK FROHMILLER West Bath
SHARON DRAKE Bath	PATTI IRISH <i>Media Specialist</i> Brunswick
BRIDGET HEALY Freeport	JIM NELSON Harpwell
MEGGAN HENERLAU Dresden	GILBERT ROSS Auburn
FRED HILL Arrowsic	ROBERT STEVENS <i>Master Shipwright</i> Woolwich
*PAUL JOHNSON Arrowsic	ANDREW VAVOLOTIS <i>Robinhood Marine Center</i> Georgetown
*HOWARD KIRKPATRICK Bath	WILLIAM WEST <i>Shipwright</i> Whitefield
JEFF LOZIER Warren	DAVID B. WYMAN <i>Naval Architect</i> Castine
JOEE PATTERSON Rockport	Partner Bath Freight Shed Alliance
ED RICE Woolwich	
ED ROGERS Bath	
RICHARD STEVENSON Bath	
*WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS	

Virginia's Fo'castle August 2012.

We've been having an unbelievable season this year and it's not over yet! Construction on Virginia continues to move forward with volunteers building frames and shaping spars. Earlier this month Virginia's stem was raised. Summer shipbuilding program students asked that we "go back to five days a week". In honor of the many Virginia volunteers who give so much, what follows is a lightly edited thank you originally sent from the Membership committee chair.

Thanks to Joanne Luneau for organizing the highly successful Yard Sale in May as part of the Bath Mayfair. Donations and sales were brisk and over \$1,000 were raised.

Special Edition June 2012 Newsletter – thanks to Marsha Conover for discovering the electronic boost in our ability to email over 600 addresses a 1meg photo loaded file simultaneously. This new capability will give us instant access to social networking sites as well and will become an important part our construction and education update and outreach programs. Thanks to Allison Hepler and Merry Chapin for helping address, stamp and mail 626 hard copy special edition newsletters (Yikes) and to Marsha for printing the labels (we need a new printer in the MFS office!!). Thanks to Ed Rogers for the print ship recommendation that resulted in our unique and eye catching hard copy format mailing.

Special Thanks to Jeremy Blaiklock for co-chairing the Heritage Days events, and to my husband Tim Teague for putting up with my perpetual state of distraction for the entire month of June. Thanks to the Virginia Volunteers (who would rather be chopping down trees or cutting them into masts and futtocks) who helped set up the mini-museum for the season. Thanks to Gil Ross, Orman Hines and David Fay for carrying all the exhibits and merchandise from the office into our museum area. Thanks to Tim and Gil for the work with the power drill and to Joanne for washing windows and baking brownies (yum).

Thanks to Joanne for the quick costume overhaul and to Jeremy, Orman, Tim, Jay Coffey and Chewbacca for making the Heritage days parade with Jane Stevens experience so much fun – the crowd was amazing.

Thanks to Tim and Jeremy for the work to setup for the Fireworks event –hanging and testing outdoor lights, roping perimeters and stacking sill timbers into seating. Special thanks to the City of Bath Cemetery and Parks Dept for clearing and leveling the back lot and for leaving the site spotless after the Chile/Chowderfest, shifting a few last minute tables and leaving a supply of chairs for our use. Thanks for the great volunteers who staffed the Fireworks event, Jeremy, Tim, Jay, Merry, Bridget Healy, Joanne, Marty and Fred Hill, Eric Varney and Christy Becker, and Rob Stevens. Thanks Marsha for the marked up member list that ensured the Frame members and guest tickets were properly honored. Thanks to Wiebke Theodore and Kate Nicolson for the delicious and healthy food offerings and for Jay Dorr of JR Maxwell's for managing the beverages – ahhh, fireworks and pinot grigio. Seventy-two members and guests attended and \$500 were raised.

The mast event was the culmination of over a month of activity – Thanks to Jeremy, Dick Forest, Tim, Orman, David, Dan Wood, Jay, and Rob for felling white pine spar trees and moving them into the creek for transport. Thanks to Bruce and Nancy Montgomery who towed the logs into deeper water and to Ed Rice and first mate Larry of Kennebec River tours (and MFS Board) who towed the logs to the Bath Freight Shed, and to Jeff Shiers, City of Bath Harbormaster, Bath Police Sergeant and Bath Police Rescue Boat pilot who provided a safety escort during the river tow and who helped stage the logs for the July 8th landing. Thanks to all the logging volunteers above and the many members of the public who helped land these spars and to Howie Kirkpatrick for using his forklift to position these spar logs for student work. Thanks to Merry, Gil and Bonnie Ross for managing the museum and merchandise while the logs were being landed. Special thanks to Rob, Tim and Allison for providing the log rolling comic relief and to all the people I have overlooked my apologies and my sincere thanks.

Lessons learned: At times it was hard assembling the physical resources needed due to the July 4th holiday. MFS is soliciting members and a Board Chair for a new Events committee to improve the opportunities for member involvement. It was suggested advance ticket sales would have boosted attendance at the Fireworks event. The Freight Shed has no exterior lighting or plugs, this complicates use for events occurring after nightfall. It was suggested the beautifully cleared and leveled back lot would be a perfect place to rent for wedding receptions or other appropriate events (this is a winner). It takes a village to raise a ship. Sincerely- Gayla Teague

VISION STATEMENT

Maine's First Ship will build a 51-foot reconstruction of the pinnacle *Virginia*; the first English ship built in North America to cross the Atlantic back to Europe. We will engage students of all ages in the "hands on history" reconstruction and operation of *Virginia* on the rivers and coast of Maine.



HISTORY AND COMMUNITY - BECOME A VOLUNTEER

FMI visit us online at www.mfship.org

Email us at mfs1@myfairpoint.net

Call 443-4242 or write Maine's First Ship PO Box 231 Bath ME 04530

Or stop by the Bath Freight Shed Commercial Street Bath Maine

"when the flag of St. George is flying"

MAINE'S FIRST SHIP PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

This has become a very busy and productive period for us this summer. Please stop by and visit us at the freight shed on Bath's beautiful waterfront. Don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions, need any information, or wish to make a further donation to the campaign.

*Regards,
Orman Hines, President*

MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

Virginia volunteer Jay Coffey has come up with a great challenge for Maine's First Ship to get new members. He is challenging all Board, Advisory Board and MFS members to obtain two new members for MFS. One way to meet that challenge is for members to give gift memberships as birthday or Christmas gifts, or just to honor someone with a membership. Successful members will have their names published in the next newsletter.

Membership information and enrollment forms can be downloaded from our website at: www.mfship.org

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

TRUNNEL \$ 30 **PLANK** \$ 50

FRAME \$ 100 **BUSINESS** \$ 500



**Jane Stevens Challenge
Matching Grant**
Another \$5,000 available through
a generous donor
Double your donation TODAY!

**Please mail contributions to
MFS, PO Box 231, Bath ME 04530**

PLEDGE LEVELS - VIRGINIA SHIPBUILDERS

All donors making a gift to the construction of Virginia will have their names burned on a Rudder Shaped Plaque installed in Virginia indicating the level of giving called "Virginia's Shipbuilders".

A gift at the \$250 level will be called an 'Outfitter' and receive a framed copy of David Wyman's reconstruction plans of Virginia.

A gift of \$500 will be recognized as a 'Plank' and receive a copy of John Bradford's book "The Pinnacle Virginia in Context", and a framed copy of David Wyman's Plans.

A gift of \$1000 will be recognized as a 'Beam' donor and receive a copy of John Bradford's book, a framed print of the Plans and a Ship's Block made of Locust.

A gift of \$1,500 will be called a 'Frame' level; will receive a Halyard Block w/Strop, and a copy of John Bradford's book.

A gift of \$2,500 will be known as a 'Rigger', will receive a Double Halyard Block Strop, a copy of John Bradford's book, and a Framed Print of the Plans.

A donation of \$5,000 will be called a 'Designer' and receive a half model of Virginia and a Double Halyard Block & Strop.

A donation at the \$10,000 level will be named a 'Shipwright' and receive a Half Model, Double Halyard Block, John Bradford's book, and a framed copy of the Designs and will be a guest on board the first sailing of Virginia.

Maine's First Ship Wood Donor Program Update - Due to a heartwarming and somewhat overwhelming response, we have all the donated (and purchased) green wood our volunteers can mill and assemble for *Virginia* before the end of our Freight Shed season sometime mid October 2012. Because much of the wood available through donors will need to be worked green, this essentially puts the program on pause until spring for all but the most exceptional wood. We'll continue to maintain a list of donors and wood available and update you all periodically on the program. We are also taking advantage of this opportunity to define our process based on what we've learned over the last few months about our needs and our volunteer resources.

Maine's First Ship Wood Donor Program Guidelines

Standing Wood: Due to extremely limited shipwright and sawyer resources (required for wood evaluation and harvest) we are unable to provide donation harvesting services for all but the most exceptional wood (market value, rarity and accessibility).

Wood donor information will be reviewed by the Vessel committee each spring against *Virginia's* work plan and evaluation visits will be scheduled with donors. If your wood is selected, pickup (if needed) of donor harvested wood will be arranged. (It may be necessary to plan your harvest around the pickup date because often green wood is preferred)

Milled wood: Donations of wood already milled into planks and beams will be reviewed on a case basis for need and storage requirements/availability

WE ARE SEEKING DONATIONS OF WOOD TO COMPLETE VIRGINIA

OUR GOAL IS TO INCORPORATE WOOD FROM ALL 16 COUNTIES IN MAINE INTO VIRGINIA'S CONSTRUCTION

WHITE OAK 15' TO 50' (PLANKS, DECK BEAMS, ETC.)

WHITE OAK 5' TO 14' (FRAMING)

SPRUCE, WHITE PINE (MASTS, SPARS)

HACKMATACK (KNEES)

ALSO NEEDED ARE SMALL AMOUNTS OF:

BLACK LOCUST (FRAMING, DEAD EYES, CLEATS, ETC.)

ELM, ASH (DEAD EYES, BLOCKS, ETC.)

RED OAK CLEAR LENGTH 20'+ (RIBBANDS)

MAINE'S FIRST SHIP IS AN IRS QUALIFIED 501 (C) 3 NON-PROFIT - A RECEIPT ELIGIBLE UNDER IRS RULES AS A CHARITABLE DEDUCTION WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE AMOUNT OF THE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF THE WOOD DONATED

UPCOMING EVENTS

Through mid-October Virginia Volunteers Saturdays 9: AM – 3: PM.

Mill and build frames and finish work on Virginia's Main Mast (Volunteers are always welcome!)

September 14,2012 Bath Freight Shed Alliance Bike Workshop and ride from Arrowsic

October 6, 2012, Autumnfest Events:

MFS Season Wrap party. Music, tours and good food to celebrate successful 2012 construction and educational programs.
Bath Freight Shed Alliance Plant and tee shirt sale

November 3, 2012 Winter Bath Farmer's Winter Market opens at the Bath Freight Shed

Corrections:

Jay Coffey is a graduate of the University of Maryland and has worked as efficiency engineer improving food manufacturing and processing equipment.

