



## At the Workshop

### Fall 2017 Graduation

TWBW held a graduation and boat christening ceremony on December 16, 2017. Family members and friends gathered at the shop to celebrate the accomplishments of the young boat builders in our fall after-school semester.



During the ten week program, 18 students completed two Bevin's Skiff rowboats. At the ceremony they attached name boards to their boats and received certificates of achievement. Congratulations to our fall 2017 boat builders!

### Winter/Spring Semester Update

The start of 2018 has brought a burst of activity at TWBW with 37 young boat builders working on three boats. We are once again partnering with Sail Nauticus Academy and have 26 eighth graders from the Academy participating in the winter after-school program.

They are busy converting two Bevin's Skiff rowboats, built by last year's Academy class, into sailboats. The students are constructing various sailboat components such as masts, rudders, tillers and dagger boards. To keep the masts lightweight yet strong, they are using the "bird's mouth" hollow construction method. They will also sew the sails for their boats – a skill we're teaching for the first time at the shop. The students are diligently working to complete the boats by mid-March, when they will return to sailing classes at Nauticus.



In January, 12 other students began building a new boat design, the Tidewater Skiff, drawn by naval architect Pete Buescher. It is a 14-foot, glued lapstrake sailboat designed to incorporate multiple types of construction techniques into one boat in order to maximize learning opportunities for our students. The goal is to finish the boat as a rowboat by the end of May so the students can row it on the Elizabeth River. We will then bring her back into the shop to complete construction to a full sailboat during our summer and fall programs.

## Director's Message

Dear Friends of TWBW,

Welcome to the first edition of Tidewater Wooden Boat Workshop's quarterly newsletter – a publication that celebrates the accomplishments of our young boat builders. As we continue to grow, this newsletter helps us to stay connected with our expanding network of friends, volunteers, donors, students and parents. Please take the time to read about the workshop and the amazing things our students are doing.

We are sending this out by postal mail (if we have a home address) or electronically if we only have your email address. If you would like to change the method by which you receive the newsletter please let us know.

We are grateful for your continued support of TWBW. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Tom Brandl

### YOU'RE INVITED!

Please join us for Happy Hour.



**Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 5 – 7 PM Town Point Club**  
101 West Main St. Ste 300 Norfolk, VA

Join us at Town Point Club for *Cocktails with a Cause* and support TWBW. Open to the community. Complimentary to attend. Happy hour prices.

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**TWBW's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual**  
**Open House**  
**Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**1 -4 PM at the Workshop**

# Student Spotlight

## James Bacchus

Many of our students face challenges that affect every aspect of their daily lives, none more so than James Bacchus. James has had more serious medical issues in his 15 years than most people experience in a lifetime: Spina bifida, scoliosis, Klippel-Feil syndrome (abnormal joining of two or more spinal neck bones), seizures, asthma, a rare heart condition, and a chronic neurological disorder, to name a few. He also has numerous allergies. James has undergone 33 surgeries to correct some of his medical conditions and will have two more this winter.

Throughout his life James has been unable to participate in any of the sports and many of the recreational activities most kids enjoy. He must be accompanied by a nurse or his mother whenever he leaves the house. In December 2016, James' mother contacted TWBW to see if he

could possibly participate in our boat building program. After a lengthy discussion we determined that, with a few extra safety considerations, we could accommodate James. We signed him up for our Winter/Spring 2017 program.

When he first started, James seemed timid and shy, with minimal interaction with the other students. He was somewhat hesitant to join in the activities and to work with the tools, even after being taught how to use them safely. He became fatigued easily and often had to sit and rest. As the project progressed, however, we observed many changes in James. He came out of his shell and became an active participant, working well with the other students and displaying a lot of teamwork. His communication skills improved and his self-confidence increased with every workshop session he attended. By the end of the program he was no longer hesitant to use any of the tools. His physical stamina also increased. James loved coming to the workshop so much that he returned for our fall 2017 semester.



His mother is thrilled to see the positive impact the program has had on her son. We hope to see James back in the shop next fall after he recovers from his upcoming surgeries.

**A review of over 50 studies of afterschool programs conducted by The Afterschool Alliance suggests: (1) quality afterschool programs improved school attendance, engagement in learning, test scores, and grades; (2) frequency and duration of afterschool participation increases benefits; and (3) high-risk youth show the greatest benefits.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> From *Making the Case: A 2009 Fact Sheet on Children and Youth In Out-of-School Time*; 2009 National Institute on Out-of-School Time at Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley College.

# Tools and Techniques

*Highlighting tools and skills of our students.*



## Hand Planes

A hand plane is used to shape wood using muscle power to force a blade across the wood surface at adjustable cutting depths. Generally, all planes are used to flatten, reduce the thickness of, and impart a smooth surface to a rough piece of lumber. The planes used most often by our students are bench planes and block planes. Different types of bench planes are designed to perform different tasks, with the name and size of the plane being defined by the use. The block plane typically has the blade bedded at a lower angle than other planes, with the bevel up. It is designed to cut end grain and is typically small enough to be used with one hand.



Block Plane



Bench Plane

Since our inaugural program during the summer of 2015, TWBW has enriched the lives of over 300 students. We reached this milestone because of the generosity of our wonderful donors. We look forward to your continued support of our unique and meaningful programs that make a difference in the lives of Hampton Roads youth.



*TWBW is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit and all donations are tax deductible.*

## Contacting TWBW

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