

BONE YARD BOATS®

The following is a reprint of an article first appearing in the Spring 2013 issue of the Bone Yard Boats newsletter (Issue No. 59):



OLD LOCAL FAVORITE UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

Redd's Pond Boatworks, a small yard focusing on traditional wooden boats, was founded in the 1990's in Marblehead, MA, by Thad Danielson and over the years has developed a strong reputation for excellent craftsmanship and design. In 2011, Doug Park and David Redero, classmates from Newport's International Yacht Restoration School, bought the yard from Thad. Together they bring a wealth of experience and tireless enthusiasm that breathes new life into this iconic shop.

A Marblehead native, Doug grew up sailing in Salem Sound and was officially introduced to the world of wooden boats as a student aboard the Harvey Gamage with The Ocean Classroom Foundation. While in high school, Doug spent summers apprenticing with Thad at Redd's Pond, and this is where his love of boat building was born. He went on to leadership roles with Outward Bound, the Student Conservation Association and Alta Ski Area but was always drawn back to the sea. During this time he was able to work intermittent contracts with Ocean Classroom and Manchester Marine, but in 2009 Doug finally returned to boat building full time when he was accepted as a student at the International Yacht Restoration School. During this two-year intensive program he independently restored a Beetle Cat and worked with Dave to manage a group of eight students in restoring the 1926 R Class sloop, Ruweida V. Upon graduation, Doug was chosen to be a shipwright on the Charles W. Morgan restoration at Mystic Seaport where he developed period techniques to recreate the bow section of this historic ship.

Working in the Miami Planetarium in the late 1990's as a lecturer and classroom astronomy instructor, David spent his time teaching under the stars, which had a profound impact on his views of the universe and the world around him. Feeling obligated to do more for others David set off for military service. In 2003 David finished his tour in the United States Marines and focused on working and raising a family. An interest in civil engineering with skills in land surveying led him to work as an underwater bridge inspector in Miami. Long hours under the water and onboard the crew dive boat in the Florida Keys rekindled a love for the sea and classic boats. With a passion for preservation and restoration of old boats, David headed to Newport to graduate from IYRS in 2011. David interned during his time at IYRS on the east coast of Italy near Venice, practicing Old World traditional boatbuilding as well as modern wooden boat construction methods. He has also worked with companies such as McMillen Yachts in Portsmouth, RI, preserving 1920's and 30's Trumpy yachts, and with Baltic Boatworks in Bristol, RI, restoring a 1905 Herreshoff NY30. David hopes to complete restoration on his 1936 Yonkers custom cabin motor cruiser acquired through Bone Yard Boats in his off hours. He aims to have this classic motorboat cruising the North Shore waterways with his family, friends, and guests very soon.

Redd's Pond Boatworks is a small boatyard owned by craftsmen. They are easy to approach with any idea you may have. Their experience ranges from large timber work to full restorations of yachts and fine custom joinery, so they have the skills and enthusiasm to tackle a project of any size. Representative projects include the restoration of a mast for a Herreshoff 12 1/2; designing and building a custom teak bow anchor mount for a 30' fishing boat; a full restoration of a 1930's Lawley tender; and the full restoration of the bottom of a 1942 Chris Craft. Doug and David work directly with each customer to develop an accurate estimate of the work needed with a realistic schedule of repairs. Whether you are inspired to give life to an old boat found in the pages of Bone Yard Boats or give form to those line drawings in your head, they can get you to launch day.

Stop by for a visit next time you are in the neighborhood. The shop is located in the heart of historic Marblehead, MA. Tucked behind Old Burial Hill, you can't miss the hundred year-old red barn on the western shore of Redd's Pond. An icon from a distant era, perhaps, but the hum of tools and the smell of fresh sawdust will testify that traditional wooden boat-building is alive and well in New England.

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1930's LAWLEY TENDER RESTORED BY RPB

BYB: There is a video of an oral history conversation with Thad Danielson linked to the Redd's Pond Boatworks web site under the Media pull-down that is well worth the 4 minute time investment. The story of floating the Redd's Pond Boatworks barn across the pond on a raft back in the day is a classic tale of Yankee ingenuity at its finest.



About BYB: Bone Yard Boats is a website, an old school print newsletter, and a community of subscribers passionate about old boats. The site and newsletter feature great old boats -- mostly wood -- from all over the U.S. and Canada, along with stories of boat restorations and historical tales of nautical interest. Not all the boats are free, but some really great ones are! www.boneyardboats.com © 2013