

ANNUAL REPORT

2024 SCHOOL YEAR

October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024



STAFF & BOARD

Board of Directors

Sonja Mathews, President; Management Consultant and Retired Senior Executive
Kathleen Brooker, Vice President; Historic Preservation Consultant
Richard Schwarz, Treasurer; CEO of SAFE Boats International
Bob Hartman, Secretary, Alum 2020; Retired Attorney with the United States Environmental Protection Agency
Stephen Gale, Board Member, Alum 1996; Former NWSWB Instructor, Haven Boatworks Co-founder
Jane Gultinan, Board Member; Retired Dean of Naturopathic Medicine at Bastyr University
Angela Hewitson, Board Member, Alum 2017; Maritime Community Development Specialist at the Northwest Maritime Center (through 06/30/2023)
Linda Newland, Board Member; Maritime Attorney and Former School District Administrator (through 12/01/2023)
Lynn Schwarz, Board Member; Retired Executive Coordinator in the biotech industry
David Blessing, Board Member Emeritus, Alum 2003; Nuclear Power Engineering Consultant
Michael Delagarza, Board Member Emeritus, Alum 2004; Business Manager, Champion Video Productions

Instructional Staff *

Ace Spragg, Education Director
Sean Koomen, Boatbuilding Program Director
Bruce Blatchley, Boatbuilding Instructor
Leland Gibson, Boatbuilding Instructor (through 9/14/2024)
Tucker Piontek, Boatbuilding Instructor
Korey Ruben, Boatbuilding Instructor
Kevin Ritz, Marine Systems Program Director
Tyler Johnson, Marine Systems Instructor
Evan Bailly, Marine Systems Instructor (as of 9/16/2024)
Jeff Matthews, Prothero Intern
Pearl Farley, Prothero Intern
Joel Schultz, Prothero Intern
Clare Warner, Prothero Intern

Additional Staff *

Betsy Davis, Executive Director
Jim Argites, Operations Manager
Heidi Blehm, Compliance Manager
Mo Gibson, Facilities Crew Member
Piper Howeth, Facilities Crew Member
Kate Lore, Administrative Assistant (as of 7/29/2024)
Beverly Moore, Librarian
Kristin Potter, Admissions Manager
Christina Ruben, Deputy Director & Communications Lead
Katie Whalen, Financial Aid Officer
Lauren Cennello, Student Services Manager
Scott Clifton, VetCorps Member

* as of September 30, 2024

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

As Bruce approaches his 20th year teaching at NWSWB, he demonstrates his commitment to hands-on learning daily, with projects ranging from a 62' double-ended day sailor to a human-powered submarine to a pair of Grandy skiffs – plank on frame and cold-molded built side-by-side — and this year a Doug Hyland-designed inboard-powered motor launch. After graduating from NWSWB in 1996 and subsequently working in various boat yards in Bellingham and Port Townsend, he repaired, restored, and constructed a variety of contemporary vessels as shop foreman at Seaview North Boatyard. In 2011, Bruce was recruited by the boatbuilding facility in Taichang China to enhance their boatbuilding skills and planning of cold-molded boat construction. He has also taught epoxy and fiberglassing techniques at the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival and Everett Community College. Bruce has the longest tenure of the school's instructors.



Bruce Blatchley
Boatbuilding Instructor
Class of 1996
bruce@nwswb.edu

"I am so grateful to be a part of this amazing and transformative process for so many people. It has been said many times that our product is not the boats but our students and the fulfilling lives we help to facilitate."

Lauren is passionate about bringing a high level of care and compassion to student advocacy and draws on two decades of rich experiences in customer service, administration, and sales for businesses ranging from agriculture and craft beverages, to healthcare and natural wellness. Originally from Monterey Bay, California, Lauren has always been drawn to live near the ocean and has called the Olympic Peninsula home since 2010. An avid lover of all things water, she enjoys the splendor of our local beaches, rivers, and lakes with her partner (and NWSWB alum), Arthur, and their 3 sweet dogs. Some of her greatest passions include desert flora, Thai food, travel to exotic destinations, and glasses of bubbly with best friends.



Lauren Minnerly
Student Services Manager
lauren.minnerly@nwswb.edu

"The Boat School is not just a place to learn craftsmanship—it's a community where students develop invaluable skills that connect them to a rich maritime tradition. By fostering hands-on expertise in the marine trades, we empower individuals to build not only boats, but also the confidence and resilience needed to thrive in both their careers and lives."

Evan joined the Army as a helicopter mechanic right out of high school. When his leave would allow, he worked as an engineer and deckhand on Gray's Harbor Historical Seaport's tall ships. After Evan retired from the Army as a flight engineer and aircrew instructor following twelve years of flying and three combat tours, he completed both the Boatbuilding and Marine Systems programs at NWSWB. Evan then ran his own marine repair and restoration business and worked at a Tacoma shop specializing in the custom design, fabrication, restoration, and rebuilding of vintage cars. He is married to his best friend Sara, formerly his boss on tall ships, and together they have two children. They split their time between their 1907 home in Tacoma and their 1950 Ed Monk-designed motor cruiser Duffy in Port Townsend.



Evan Bailly
Marine Systems Instructor
Marine Systems Class of 2020
Boatbuilding Class of 2019
evan.bailly@nwswb.edu

"Every aspect of a boat has the opportunity to be the perfect intersection of art and applied physics. The Boat School doesn't just teach you how to install a bilge pump or chop a carlin joint, it gives appreciation to the beauty of function and the utility from form."

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I remain inspired by the shipwrights who founded NWSWB in the Port Townsend boatyard in order to pass along their skills and knowledge to future generations of craftspeople. Strong grass-roots effort and support from the local community enabled the school to stand on those shoulders and become a nationally-recognized accredited post-secondary school — the only institution of higher education based in Jefferson County. In February 2024, NWSWB was one of only 32 schools across the country recognized by the Federal Maritime Administration as a 2024 Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education. Local philanthropists created significant scholarship opportunities for young people from the county to enter the school in the Fall of 2024 on a pathway to living-wage job opportunities.

NWSWB's role providing workforce training opportunities for local residents to help fill employee shortages at local marine businesses was recognized as part of the North Olympic Peninsula Reconnect Coalition, which was awarded \$35 million by the U.S. Department of Commerce to reinvigorate the economy on the North Olympic Peninsula. As a member of the coalition, NWSWB was awarded \$1 million of the overall grant to expand its programs — which will double the size of the Marine Systems program over the next five years. The school is growing its capacity with a careful eye to planning, quality, and sustainability.

The student experience remains the center of focus for the phenomenal team of instructors and staff that I have had the privilege of working with. Each student's learning is unique, based on their personal vocational goals and the way in which they best learn. It is



energizing to hear from students and employers that NWSWB's "product — the education offered" is high-quality and delivers results.

I am so grateful for the leadership and dedication of the entire team at the school — including the staff and the volunteers who serve on the board, on committees, and on specific projects. I also remain so grateful to a community that supports this one-of-a-kind educational experience that has earned national and international recognition while acting locally. All helping students "Make a Living, Craft a Life."

Betsy Davis

LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



Many Boat School graduates describe their hands-on learning experience at NWSWB as life changing. They've developed a skillset and a confidence that is transformational. The organization has been experiencing the same sense of possibility and transformation as we move forward on a number of multi-year initiatives.

In the digital space, the school is leveraging new online marketing tools and revamped financial reporting tools to continue the school's multi-year focus on building organizational sustainability. A Learning Management System provides a tool for students with different learning styles to review information and preserves institutional knowledge about curriculum for instructors and staff. Digital communication is transforming the path to enroll-

ment at NWSWB. While the school teaches physical literacy skills in a hands-on environment, the digital world lets us connect with people who may not know this type of learning environment exists.

In the physical space, the Boat School has invested more than \$5.5 million in facilities and equipment since 2015 to enhance hands-on learning and support program growth at our now 8-acre waterfront campus. Work was accomplished incrementally as funding emerged from community support. This year, in addition to the new sewer coming to the campus, the school has been rehabilitating the newly acquired cottages which provide student housing, and piloting an AmeriCorps position to develop the campus hardscape by replacing invasives with native plants. The recent installation of rooftop solar on four buildings is saving expense, supporting environmental goals, and re-enforcing what students are learning about solar technology in the school's Marine Systems program.

Sonja Mathews

MISSION

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

PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION & JOB PREPAREDNESS

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

FAST FACTS: CLASS 2024

- Students came from 9 states and 1 international country (Canada).
- Almost 60% of students came from Washington State.
- The average age of all students was 35 years old.

CLASS OF 2024 DEMOGRAPHICS

Total enrolled: 43 Ages: 18-65
Boatbuilding students: 25 Military Veterans: 11
Marine Systems students: 18

“Boat School is awesome. You learn about boats and marine systems, but you also learn about yourself — what your strengths are, where you need to work on stuff... You can’t build a boat by yourself, so helping each other is part of the learning and part of the culture.”
— Joel Schultz

CLASS OF 2024

A selection of businesses where students found employment:
Revision Marine — Port Townsend, WA
Haven Boatworks — Port Townsend, WA
NWSWB — Port Hadlock, WA
Monkey Fist Marine — Seattle, WA
Turnpoint Design — Port Townsend, WA
Helmsman Trawlers — Seattle, WA
Schooner Creek Boat Works — Portland, OR
NW Sails & Canvas — Port Hadlock, WA
Pendelton Yacht Yard — Islesboro, ME
Traditional Marine Services — Port Townsend, WA

Several students went on to start their own businesses, five students continued their education at NWSWB in the Marine Systems Program, and several others went on to continue their education in other institutions.

Gender breakdown over all programs:

Men: 28 (65%)
Women: 10 (23%)
Non-binary/third gender: 5 (12%)

Gender breakdown per program

Boatbuilding Students: 25	Marine Systems Students: 18
Men: 15 (60%)	Men: 13 (72%)
Women: 7 (28%)	Women: 3 (17%)
Non-binary/ third gender: 3 (12%)	Non-binary/ third gender: 2 (11%)



Evan Ortega
Boatbuilding
Pendleton Yacht Yard
Islesboro, ME



Sydney Louchard
Boatbuilding
Traditional Marine Services
Port Townsend, WA



Clare Warner
Marine Systems
Schooner Creek Boat Works
Portland, OR



Evan Geilenfeldt
Marine Systems
Monkey Fist Marine
Seattle, WA



Mia Nikkonen
Boatbuilding
Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding
Port Hadlock, WA



Christopher Seevers
Marine Systems
Helmsman Trawlers
Seattle, WA

WHERE DID THE CLASS OF 2024 COME FROM?

Arizona	1
California	3
Colorado	2
Maryland	1

Michigan	2
Minnesota	1
Oregon	3

Texas	3
Washington	26
Canada	1

PRESERVING AND DEVELOPING CRAFTSMANSHIP

A signature characteristic of the Boat School is the range of boat projects that students work on as boatbuilders and marine systems technicians. Because students and instructors build different boats each year, nothing is done by rote. Instructors model the problem solving that is an essential skill set of people entering the trades.

FOLKBOAT: TRADITIONAL BUILD WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART SYSTEMS

In July, the Boat School launched a 25' Nordic Folkboat that was built by students in the Boatbuilding and Marine Systems programs. "The project challenged students to work to a professional boatyard level of detail," said Boatbuilding Program Director, Sean Koomen. "When you look at the boat, you would have no clue it incorporates some of the latest technology available. It doesn't take away from the boat's traditional look and feel," Marine Systems Program Director Kevin Ritz.

"The craftsmanship of the Folkboat is remarkable," said owner Charles Jahn, "but what I witnessed was even greater — the NWSWB program was unlocking potential, shaping futures, and proving what's possible. Some had never used hand tools before starting the program, yet their skill and dedication spoke volumes about the power of hands-on learning at NWSWB."



Photo © Eric Trevino

TROLLER DIANA LEE SHOWCASES STUDENT CRAFTSMANSHIP AND PACIFIC NORTHWEST DESIGN

The troller Diana Lee is a 24' Pacific Northwest fishery-style pocket cruiser custom designed by Madison Boatworks for local owners Chuck and Diana Hancock. As a marine tradesperson, who previously worked as a pattern-maker at Port Townsend Foundry, Chuck reports that "the highlight for me has been seeing the care and quality of the build. It shows me how knowledgeable and capable the instructors are and how effectively they elicit quality work from the students. It's a marvelous thing to see." Diana has appreciated the process of the build. "We don't live too far away and it's been so amazing to watch it come together! I've loved getting to meet the students and instructors in person who've been doing such a great job. We feel so fortunate," said Diana.



Photo © Elizabeth Becker

BRINGING VITALITY TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

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, and by contributing to initiatives supporting the common good.

Reducing Bay Pollution

To better buffer Port Townsend Bay from contaminated stormwater flowing down through the campus from the Hadlock business district, the school has turned a hole in the ground where water gathers into a bioretention swale. WSU Extension faculty partnered with NWSWB and the Jefferson County Conservation District to plan the project. The Jefferson County Conservation District secured grant funding from the Washington State Conservation Commission to provide technical and



Investing in Clean Energy

In 2022, the Boat School installed 164 solar panels on the Hammond Shop and Marine Systems Buildings, resulting in dramatic cost savings (\$9,000 per year in power cost, with a total savings of \$200,000 over the lifetime of the system) and environmental benefits (the equivalent of planting 18,532 trees or driving 71,558 fewer miles). In 2024, the school installed solar panels on our two waterfront buildings. The installation of 81 Silfab SIL-500HM 500-watt solar modules and 8 Tesla Powerwall 3 Battery/Inverter units is generating additional savings.



Feeding a Need

The Boat School's Food Bank Growers Garden is going strong in its third year. We are grateful to the Food Bank Farm and Gardens of Jefferson County volunteers who have raised and donated more than 600 pounds of food directly to students at the school and also to the area's food banks — all from the Boat School's Curtis Street garden. Special thanks to super volunteer Noreen Andrews who leads our work parties.



Serving Those Who Served

The Boat School is committed to providing a supportive environment for military veterans. We are grateful to VetCorps liaison Scott Clifton, who supported other veteran students at the school while he himself was enrolled in and graduated from the 2023 Marine Systems program and the 2024 Boatbuilding program.

PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Preserving Craftsmanship and Ensuring Relevance

NWSWB has established an independent Program Advisory Committee as a means to provide an external review of its programs. The Committee meets at least twice a year and is composed of appropriately qualified representatives external to the institution (i.e., non-school employees) who can provide a meaningful review of the school's programs and supporting resources and materials. We are proud to have broad representation resulting in energetic discussions and practical suggestions for improvement.

Boatbuilding

Joel Arrington; Boatshop Manager, Northwest Maritime Center
Eron Berg; Executive Director, Port of Port Townsend
Chris Bergnoli, Jeff Galey, Chris Sanok; Member-Owners, Port Townsend Shipwright's CO-OP
Ethan Cook; Shipwright
Brandon Davis; Owner, Turn Point Design
Jim Franken; Naval Architect, James J. Franken, Inc
Stephen Gale; Former Owner/Manager, Haven Boatworks
Leo Golden; Shipwright, Owner, Tally Ho, Sampson Boat Co
Blaise Holly; Owner/Shipwright, Haven Boatworks
David King; Past Mayor of Port Townsend, Retired CFO, Townsend Bay Marine
Dieter Liobner; Editor @ Large, Professional Boatbuilder Magazine
David Jackson; Marine Surveyor, Pacific Rim Marine Surveyors
Patrick Mahon; Marine Surveyor
Dan Newland; President, Pegasus Aeromarine Inc.
Peter Proctor; Owner, Proctor Boat Company
Gordon Sanstad; Boatbuilder, Former Boatbuilding Instructor, Seattle Central Community College
Heron Scott; Executive Director, Port Townsend School of Woodworking

Marine Systems

Marc Adams; Pacific WN Dometic
Ann Avary; Director, Northwest Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing & Technology
Steve Bamesberger; Marine Systems Manufacturer's Rep, Jack Park Co.
John Mark Barrett; Marine Systems Manufacturer's Rep, Imtra Corp.
Chris Bergnoli and Chris Sanok; Member-Owners, Port Townsend Shipwright's CO-OP
Cort Corino; Service Manager, Jefferson Beach Yacht Sales
Ethan Cook; Shipwright
Sarah Fiskien; Marine Operations Specialist, Washington Sea Grant
Luis Gonzalez and Kevin Lind; Suzuki Marine
Charlie Johnson, PE; President, JTB Marine Corporation
Dieter Liobner; Editor @ Large, Professional Boatbuilder Magazine
Scott McEniry; Marine Manufacturer's Representative
Jake McFadin; Lead Electrician & Project Manager, Schooner Creek Boat Works
Gordon Sanstad; Boatbuilder & Former Boatbuilding Instructor, Seattle Central Community College
Jagen Twichell; Factory Field Rep, Derema Group
Steffen Brown; Project Manager, ACI Boats
Al Thomason; Founder/Engineer, Wakespeed

FINANCIALS

NWSWB successfully completed another year with a net positive result and substantial growth of assets. While tuition revenue declined modestly, the overall successful results include increases in revenue coupled with a slightly decreased operating expenses. Strong contributions from individuals, businesses, foundations, and government drove this result. The school made long-term investments by paying down its debt on the student housing purchased in the prior year. Approximately 76% of the school's overall expenses went directly to programs, 19% to Administration, and 5% to Fundraising.

OPERATING REVENUE							
	9/30/2024	9/30/2023	9/30/2022	9/30/2021	9/30/2020	9/30/2019	9/30/2018
Tuition	902,724	1,158,521	866,643	329,266	564,144	\$675,543	\$833,533
Donations including COVID Relief	1,677,802	973,085	1,195,422	1,441,372	1,633,597	1,158,249	594,618
Boat Projects	166,136	121,231	44,131	71,525	22,607	63,195	134,572
Retail Sales and Rental Income	149,269	87,357	56,676	37,286	45,278	34,598	29,067
In-Kind Revenue	101,066	66,463	9,995	117,616	4,000	8,540	14,759
Total	2,996,997	2,406,657	2,172,867	1,997,065	2,269,626	1,940,125	1,606,549
OPERATING EXPENSE							
Program Service	1,394,475	1,372,663	1,288,164	973,076	783,797	997,368	1,087,662
Administration	339,626	360,452	390,962	247,308	280,137	310,212	292,506
Fundraising	95,061	133,067	104,941	93,467	119,038	82,202	89,090
Other - Rental Property	13,523	14,007	15,828	7,665	13,092	-	-
Total	1,842,685	1,866,182	1,798,074	1,329,679	1,190,637	1,402,874	1,469,258
Change in net assets from Operating Activities	1,154,312	540,475	374,793	667,386	1,078,989	537,251	137,291
OTHER REVENUE AND EXPENSE							
Amortization	0	0	0	0	0	0	(426)
Depreciation	(184,250)	(174,256)	(140,328)	(120,163)	(91,105)	(73,570)	(61,975)
Interest Expense	(130,025)	(118,855)	(60,472)	(120,170)	(56,595)	(83,301)	(72,765)
Total Other Revenue and Expense	(314,275)	(293,111)	(200,800)	(240,863)	(147,700)	(156,871)	(135,166)
Total Change in Net Assets	840,037	247,364	173,993	426,523	931,289	380,380	2,125
Net Assets - beginning of year	3,595,219	3,347,855	3,173,862	2,747,339	1,816,050	1,435,672	1,433,547
Net Assets - end of year	4,435,256	3,595,219	3,347,855	3,173,862	2,747,339	\$1,816,052	\$1,435,672

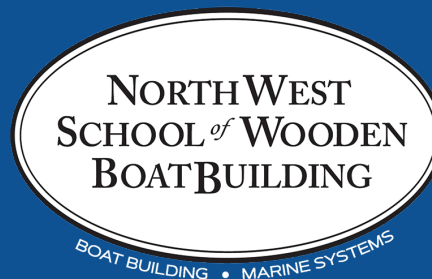
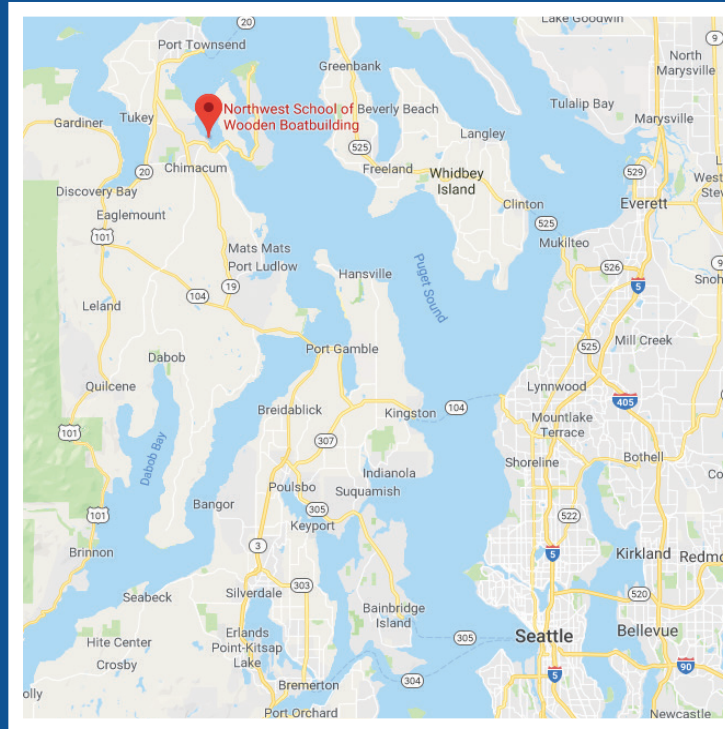
The Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding engaged Wersen Nonprofit CPAs LLC to conduct an independent audit of our financial statements for the year ending September 30, 2023. They reported an unmodified opinion — i.e., the best audit opinion an organization can receive — over our financial statements. If interested, please email Betsy Davis at betsy@nswsb.edu for a copy of these independently audited financial statements.



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.

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. You can also join in for a free tour at the school by meeting at the Office at 3:30 pm on the First Friday of each month.



Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding
Port Hadlock Heritage Campus
42 N. Water Street, Port Hadlock, WA 98339
360-385-4948 | info@nswwb.edu | www.nswwb.edu

The school is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC).
The ACCSC is a recognized institutional accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education.
Learn more at 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

The Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit institution. Tax ID 91-1122839.