

What is Linda Bean's Perfect Maine? "It's the Water."

As you Airstream around beautiful Maine, I hope it brings you to beautiful Weld on Webb Lake. Weld will be celebrating its 200th birthday all year with scheduled events.

All my Weld locations have a spectacular view of Tumbledown Mountain, a great hike with its own high lake! Plan to stop at a piece of streamside land of mine that I call "A Dream Realized." Or call to plan a vacation rental or wedding with us in this perfect part of scenic, unspoiled western Maine.

Weld is also where our 100% natural maple syrup comes from. 1100 tree taps are active in March. Order Linda Bean's Over the Moon Maine Maple Syrup online (wholesale or retail) or pick it up on your way in Freeport at my restaurant directly across from L.L. Bean.



www.weldbicentennial.com

www.LindaBeansPerfectMaine.com or phone me! 207-330-0263



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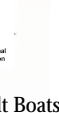
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A Moth Update: From Basement to Shop

THANK GOODNESS professional boatbuilders are better than me at keeping to a schedule. In this issue we look at some of the extraordinary boats launched in Maine during the past year. Ranging from elegant motoryacht refits to around-the-world racers and a funky houseboat, this issue showcases the can-do attitude of the Maine boatbuilding industry. Not in this issue: a story about the New Zealand scow Moth that my son and I started last winter (and I wrote about in Issue #139).

When we began last year we worried the boat might get stuck in the basement. It didn't, but maybe it should have. The basement was a great place to work, clean, well-lit, and close to the kitchen. We laid out the plans there and built the backbone, or CVK, as our consultant Art Paine called it—CVK is shorthand for central vertical keel. We built a jig out of nice straight fir and set the backbone in



place. This Moth is designed like an airplane wing, bulkheads fastened to the CVK with longitudinal stringers covered by thin plywood planking.

When we realized the fit between our boat and door to the outside was going to be really tight, we decided to build a mock-up out of lauan plywood as a test. After taking a break during Sam's basketball season, we finished the mock-up and

on a fine early spring day, with help from a neighbor, we muscled the 11' x 4' x 1' box toward the outside. Halfway through we got stuck. The only way we could get the mockup out was with twisting and wiggling. But a fully glued up Moth gets its strength from being a stiff one-piece structure that does not twist and bend.

Plan B was to build the boat in my less well-lit, less clean shop. We brought the building jig out there, refaired the CVK and got back to work, hoping to be done by summer. We were racing against time, though, and we lost. Baseball season, the water, and already completed boats lured us away with summer's siren call.

But now it's winter again and we are back at work. Last weekend we built a plastic cocoon in my shop enclosing the boat project and my big woodstove. The tools have been gathered, the iPhones have been left at the door, and the lights are on. Let the boatbuilding begin. ★



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in love with winter.

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and had no idea which neighbor to thank.

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In search of the next project

IT'S GETTING DARK EARLY these days. Most of my boats are hauled. But it's still too early for the skis, skates, and iceboats. What is a fella to do?

Why look at boat plans, of course, and read boat books, make a little fire in the wood stove, and imagine what could be. There are so many boat plans out there, old and new, sail, power and paddle. Looking at the lines, reading the designers' comments, and trying them on for size brings me great joy. These dark days of late fall bring out my dreams of boatbuilding.

Thinking about my next project might just be the most rewarding of all my boat habits. The last new project—building a Moth sailboat with my son—has been tabled until Sam returns home for school vacation. We got so very close to finishing this past summer, but I am not allowed to work on the Moth with-

out him. Fair enough, I can start on something for myself.

But what? I am a very unaccomplished boatbuilder living in a region full of very accomplished boatbuilders. In

many ways this is an exercise in humility, as there is so much that I don't know, and so much that I do so badly. It is an exercise in resilience, as well. When I make mistakes, I smack my forehead and wonder how I could have been so ignorant, but then I get back to work and fix them (sometimes with expert advice).

If I were smart, I would build something small and handy. This is more about the process, after all, than the end result. But the dreaming side of me always has bigger plans. Howard Chappelle, Olin Stephens, Nathaniel Herreshoff and Uffa Fox are my after dinner companions. Perhaps I should just see what they recommend.

Boats, whether using them, or dreaming of them through the dark days of early winter, keep me sane. The best part is that at this dreaming stage, the yard bills are quite manageable. ★

Mary E arriving at the museum April 23, 2017.

In April 2017, the oldest Maine-built wooden fishing vessel still afloat returned to her hometown: Bath, Maine. Since arriving at Maine Maritime Museum, the 1906 schooner Mary E has been undergoing a substantial restoration to preserve her for the future. In spring 2018—112 years after her original launch—she'll be launched in the Kennebec

River again. The museum will be her permanent home, giving thousands of visitors each year the rare opportunity to see, feel, and appreciate Maine's centuries-old boatbuilding traditions.

May 9, 2017

Join the hundreds of people—your friends and neighbors—who have pledged their support for this important project. Help keep Maine's maritime heritage alive; become a Friend of Mary E.

July 14, 2017

Become a Friend of Mary E with a gift of \$19.06 or more and you will automatically be entered to win tickets on her first public cruise in 2018!

August 29, 2017



MaineMaritimeMuseum.org/mary-e

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