

BOATYARDS



PORCUPINE is taking shape at the Bayfront Maritime Center

The Bayfront Maritime Center remains dedicated to completing the construction, USCG certification, and launching of Erie's historic 1812 schooner *Porcupine*.

Next on the job list is finishing the galley, installing the shaft and prop, exhaust, through hulls, engine controls, fuel lines, batteries and wiring. Then the two layers of subdeck which are already cut to fit and finish painted on the bottom will be installed.

"Since this project began with the donation of a suitable hull, private citizens, corporations, and organizations have stepped up with donations to help transform this vision into reality," says project director Richard Eisenberg.

"We are so grateful for the tremendous outpouring of community support for this huge endeavor."

Visitors are welcome to the BMC boatshop in Erie Pennsylvania to see the project first-hand.

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Mayflower II has settled in for the long haul at Mystic Seaport. She's out of the water with a huge temporary structure (nicknamed "The Mailbox") erected over her.

"Plimoth Plantation brought the ship to Mystic Seaport in November to begin a two-year drydock period to restore and preserve the ship," says project director Whit Perry. "The ship will return to Plymouth in the spring of 2019 in

time for the 400th commemoration of the Pilgrims' landing in 1620."

"The focus for the next nine months or so will be on the ship's frames, floor timbers, and the keelson," said Quentin Snediker, the Seaport's Shipyard Director. "We also have a crew at work replacing the stem assembly, which is five very large pieces that, despite their size, need to be precisely shaped and fitted together."

As always at the Seaport, the ongoing work is visible to visitors. They won't let you run the shipsaw, but boat-building enthusiasts will have a great opportunity this summer to watch an extensive restoration in progress, with everything from sawmills to hand tools on site and in use.

The structural pieces are live oak. As was the case with the whaleship *Charles W. Morgan* during her restoration, black locust trunnels and galvanized metal spikes are being used as fasteners.

For excellent coverage of this project, check out the Plimoth Plantation and Mystic Seaport websites.

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"Planking is progressing nicely on *Virginia*," writes Alison Hepler of Maine's First Ship, "with about 42 more white oak planks and clamps to hang.

"After the sheer plank is hung, we'll install the beam

clamp, and two more clamp strakes below that. Then we can start framing the deck."

Hepler noted that *Virginia* got some planking help recently from apprentices from the Rockland Apprenticeshop.

The original *Virginia*, the first ship built in North America by English colonists, was constructed in 1607-1608 at the mouth of the Kennebec River. The 51-foot replica of *Virginia* will be built to USCG Subchapter T standards. When the pinnacle is complete, middle school and high school students will participate in programs that teach operating and maintaining a traditionally-rigged sailing vessel.

For more info, visit www.mfship.org.

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Up at the Boothbay Harbor Shipyard, the schooner *Ernestina-Morrissey* is well along in her \$6.3 million restoration.

Earlier this month, SEMA celebrated the 1982 return of *Ernestina* to Massachusetts, where she started her historic journey as the *Effie M. Morrissey* in 1894. It was 35 years ago this summer that the newly-independent Republic of Cabo Verde made her a gift to the people of the United States.

Since her return to Massachusetts, *Ernestina-Morrissey* has served as an educational platform and ambassador celebrating the rich maritime history and culture of the Commonwealth. She'll continue to do so at the completion of the rebuild, when she will become a training vessel for the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Bourne.

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The Kitsap Maritime Heritage Foundation continues to restore the steel-hulled, gaff-rigged schooner *Fiddler's Dream*, which was donated to the group in 2014. On June 10 they celebrated the completion of the deck re-planking with a "whiskey plank" party.

The work parties are now changing their course from decking

to installing seam cork and prepping for tank installation.

The goal is to offer education programs tailored to third, fourth, and fifth graders teaching the use of practical Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). ☺

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