

ACTON ACTION

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At left is the crew of *Junk Raft*, a sailboat made out of plastic soda bottles and old aircraft parts. On board for the trip from California to Hawaii to promote awareness of plastic pollution are Marcus Erikson, Anna Cummins, and Joel Paschal back in 2008.

Junk Raft Book Publication Calls New Attention to Plastic Pollution in Oceans

Trio sailed plastic bottles across Pacific; New book about voyage tells story and offers solutions to plastic pollution

It has been nine years since Marcus Erikson, his wife Anna Cummins, and navigator/film-maker Joel Paschal crossed 2600 miles of the Pacific on a 30 ft. raft made from an old Cessna 310 fuselage and six pontoons filled with 15,000 plastic bottles.

This past summer, the book about the voyage made it to print. Titled *Junk Raft: An Ocean Voyage and a Rising Tide of Activism to Fight Plastic Pollution*, the book tells the history of plastic pollution and the movement to fight it.

Erikson and wife Anna are co-founders of the 5 Gyres Institute, a 501 (c)3 non-profit that focuses on plastics pollution. Before founding the institute, the couple teamed with Charles Moore of the Algalita Marine Research Foundation. Moore is largely credited with the discovery of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in 1997. In this issue we will spend some time with these people and other efforts to stop plastic pollution on the planet.

Whatcha Wearing?

2

Sailors wear a lot of polyester, nylon, spandex and rayon. And it's really good stuff, right? Mostly.



Where Ya Sailin'?

3

You could be off the coast of Brazil right now. Are you? Roger Henthorn is there now. Kinda.



What's this?
Guppy
Friend! A
plastic bag
that is taking
on microfiber
pollution.

Got Fleece?

Here's what you can do

Trying to eliminate use of plastics like water and soda bottles, straws, drink lids, utensils, and other things like them is one way to combat the plastic problem. But what about those microplastics that are coming off our synthetic clothing?

The textile industry is going to have to help us out. Maybe even the manufacturers of washing machines and detergents could pitch in. For now, you can help by the way you shop and the way you do laundry.

For one, we can avoid fleece, the worst offender. And look for clothing with less plastic in it. Another way to combat it is to use something called a Guppy Friend. This is a bag (made of plastic, ironically) that you can put your fleece items and other "plastic" clothing into before you launder them. The microfibers are trapped in the bag rather than being sent down the drain on the way to ocean. The bag, about \$20 from Patagonia, is on order and we'll let you know how it works in our next issue.

Another solution to microfiber pollution is to put a filter on your the drain hose of your washing machine. It's called the Filtrol 160 Washing Machine Lint Filter. This device captures the microfibers as they leave with the waste water. They are pricey at \$152 or you can use the Guppy Friend. Either way, you can do your part to help staunch the flow of plastic into our waterways, lakes, rivers and oceans.

Microplastics the Newest Threat to the Ecosystem

If what you are wearing isn't already made out of plastic, it soon will be; the rise of polyester and the decline of King Cotton

About a year before Junk Raft set sail from Long Beach, California on June 1, 2008, something happened that has had enormous impact on what we wear, how we live, and the consequences for the environment.

It was sometime in 2007 that polyester officially passed cotton as the world's dominant fiber. Our closets are full of plastic. And why not. For sailors the garment of choice is often some form of polyester, nylon, rayon or spandex since these fibers wick perspiration quickly and dry fast - an important attribute for people who sometimes find themselves splashed or soaked from either sweat, spray over the bow, or total immersion in Acton Lake.

Because of its unique properties and because of the limited amount of farmland worldwide for producing cotton, some estimate that more than 98% of future fiber production will be synthetics.

Cotton is biodegradable while polyester is not. But that may be irrelevant since cotton needs to be composted before it can break down, something that doesn't happen at the bottom of a landfill. There are arguments pro and con for both but while some are touting the recent trend of turning plastic bottles into clothing, a new concern has arisen. Those polyesters we are wearing are losing about 1500 -2000 microfibers every time they get washed. And the worst offenders are those fleece jackets that almost everyone owns. (I have four of them in my closet.)

This is bad news for marine life and animals like us. These micro fibers make up about 85% of the human-made material in both marine and freshwater samples around the world. Once in the water from our washing machines they are sent to the environment where they absorb toxins like pesticides and organic pollutants. There they get eaten by organisms and the toxic laden plastic works its way up the food chain.

Markus Erikson's Five Gyres Institute estimates that there are over 5 trillion pieces of plastic in the ocean. That's about 700 pieces of plastic in the ocean for every person on earth. And it looks like we are just going to keep adding to that, another 33 billion tons by 2050.

It isn't stuff you can see. When Erickson and some other researchers went to the Sargasso Sea recently, the water stretched clear blue to the horizon. But when they sieved the water, they found a fog of microplastics. There appears to be few if any places left on the planet, no matter how remote, that we haven't found a way leave our mark.



SV Delos - Cruising the World by Sail

(Editor's Note - HSA's Roger Henthorn likes to dream. Some of that dreaming takes place on line where he follows sailors around the world literally but digitally. One of his favorites is SV Delos (SV stands for "sailing vessel), a 53 ft sailboat. Roger follows others but this one is his main interest.)

Back in 2004 Brian Trautman began saving his money. His dream was to sail across the Pacific Ocean and about five years later, he quit his job, sold his house and cast off from a dock in Seattle headed for New Zealand and Australia. Trautman has since been joined on board by his younger brother Brady and they often take on others as crew for varying lengths of time.

The boat is an Amel Super Maramu, a two masted monohull (this one's a ketch), built in France in 2000 and somehow landing in Trautman's back yard near Seattle. The former UW student and software engineer was in his early 30's when the bug hit him. It wasn't long before he found himself walking down a dock and finding a boat which was screaming, "Take me across the Pacific Ocean!"

It has and much further, traveling from there to the Philippines, the Solomons, and Vanuata - all over the Western Pacific at first but the boat has also been across the Atlantic to the coast of Africa. It is currently cruising off the coast of Brazil.

The brothers and their companions have been

at it since shoving off in June of 2009, and there are a number ways to access their adventure. They are on episode 154 on their You Tube channel where you can see any of the previous ones.

If you are wondering how they finance such a lifestyle (Brian's money ran out after about two years), they stop to work during cyclone seasons doing odd jobs like boat and restaurant work. "The cycle was work, save, sail, go broke, and repeat," says Trautman.

Now they also earn money from ads on their video blogs on the internet, but they also say that they most of it through donations from their on line followers, some of whom end up on board sailing with them. In fact, if you contribute, you could win a place on board. All you have to do if your name is drawn is fly somewhere to meet them. After that the ride is free.

If you would like to follow SV Delos or just check them out, here are some links to find out more:

Web = <https://svdelos.com/>

Facebook

= <https://www.facebook.com/svdelos/>

YouTube

= <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvLc83k5o11EIF1IEo0VmuQ>

(If Roger ever disappears, we'll know what happened.)

Film *Smog of the Sea* Sounds Clarion Call

It's not the *Shape of Water*, the popular film and Golden Globe best director winner about a human like amphibian creature who falls for a mute woman working as a janitor in a government research facility. But it is about the shape of water; that is, as in what kind of shape our water is in.

It's called *Smog of the Sea* and the only amphibian creatures are the ones you would expect to see. It is a short documentary by award winning filmmaker Ian Cheney (*King Corn* among others) who has taken his cinematography skills on and under the water.

The film tells the story of the one week journey of a three masted schooner called *Mystic* as it sails the waters of the Sargasso Sea in the North Atlantic Ocean. Organized by marine scientist and Five Gyres cofounder Marcus Eriksen, the ship plies the waters searching for the North Atlantic trash gyre. They don't find it but they do find something more startling if less visible to the naked eye.

As the crew sieves the water they find a fog of microplastics - evidence of trillions of nearly invisible pieces of plastic floating in the water and making their way slowly up the food chain. And that's just what is on the surface.

As more and more plastic trash enters the waters of the world, it can only photodegrade not biodegrade. That means that plastic bottles, plastic toys, plastic containers of every sort slowly break up into smaller and smaller pieces. Marine life, mistaking the plastic for food, eat these small pieces where they end up moving up the food chain to larger and larger animals, including us.

As the film mentions, you might be able to clean up a garbage gyre in a lake, a harbor, or even an ocean. But how do you clean up a fog of plastic microscopic particles? As long as the spigot is turned on, the spigot of plastic waste that is, the waterways of the world will continue to receive a flow of plastic which is always in the process of breaking down to tiny.

You can view the film or arrange a screening plus get a ton of ideas for taking action at

<https://www.thesmogofthesea.com/smog-of-the-sea>



The *Smog of the Sea* Screening Kits are available for interested educators, organizations, and festivals. The kit includes:

The *Smog of the Sea* free download link

The *Smog of the Sea* DVD if requested

How to Host a Plastic Free Screening Event Guide

Suggested Discussion Questions for a screening

<https://www.thesmogofthesea.com/host-a-screening/>



The photo above was taken in late November when the Great Miami in Middletown near the Route 4 Bridge in Poastown overflowed its banks. When the water receded, there was this line of plastic bottles at the high water mark extending for two hundred yards

HSA Anchors Calendar for 2018

Something old, something new, something borrowed, lots to do; Ready to Sail?

It might still be January but things are already heating up on the water front. HSA's Executive Committee met recently to set the 2018 calendar. Here's what came of that four hour meeting that included Captain Jerry Brewster's penne pasta casserole with edamame (which he pronounced ay-duh-mah-may - which turns out to actually be the right pronunciation, not ed'smommy as I thought he said.)

The first order of business was discussion of a dues increase. If members approve, the dues will be \$105 for 2018 (up from \$95), largely due to the state increasing dock and dry moorage fees by about 1/3. It will be the first dues increase since about 2008. As it turns out, the club would have ended 2017 in the red had it not been for *OktoberFast*.

The banquet ticket is also going up due to an increase in prices from Barn-n-Bunk from \$25 to \$27. HSA is raising ticket prices to \$30 though, in order to keep the junior cost at \$15.

As for the racing schedule, the season begins on April 22 (three months from now!). The Spring schedule ends on June 17 after eight weekends of sailing, instruction, and social

events before the first Intro to Sailing weekend on June 23-24. There are already seven signed up for that class. A family of six also signed up for a family group intro to sailing.

HSA is once again offering up Acton Lake for a Regional Sunfish Regatta, probably on October 6-7 but has not had official confirmation yet from the Midwest director.

Special events talked about include the Second Annual Capri Club Championship, The Amazing Race - Acton Style, Beach Day, the Interfleet Championship, and The Around the Lake Race.

A work party on HSA boats will take place alongside the Spring Social on April 14th. Got a sailing adventure to talk about? The Spring Social will feature sailing adventures and the debut of the Spinnaker Pole Challenge.

HSA sailboats will not only get a good cleaning and overhaul on April 14th but will also get branding with the club's name on the bows. There are also some changes coming to the certification process that are still in the works. (Confession to Rose: I took two brownies with me, as you know, but I also ate about four others.)

Beverages and Boats!

It is still cold outside and no one wants to turn their sail craft into an icebreaker, so why not stay warm and turn our attention to another kind of craft - craft beer! HSA's winter social schedule Beverages and Boats begins with a meet up at the Boro Bistro on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 2:00. Someone will bring a set of rules, a small boat kit and mini-buoys for playing out some of the most asked about situations on the water, whether racing or not. Be sure let us know if you are coming so we can look for you. All are invited. No membership required. RSVP to 937-499-4343 via text.



First meet up of the Beverages & Boats club outing is scheduled for Saturday, February 10th at 2:00 pm. The location is the Boro Bistro which is in Springboro on SR 741 in South Dayton. The address is 722 N. Main St. Springboro, OH.



Presenting the 2018 HSA Good Will Tour de Hueston Woods!

Renew, recharge, re-up, renegotiate, reinvent yourself! Sail in 2018 and you will be more popular, less stressed, and leave a smaller carbon footprint. (As long as you remember to clean your shoes before climbing aboard.)

- 14 April - Launch Boats/Work Party 10:00 am
HSA Spring Social 1:30 pm Hueston Room
- 22 April - First Spring Races 1-2
- 29 April - Second Spring Races 3-4
- 6 May - Third Spring Races 5-6
- 13 May - Fourth Spring Races 7-8
- 19-20 May - Sailing School #1 - Intro to Sailing
- 27-28 May - Memorial Day Series
Potluck Dinner Sunday at 5:00
- 2 June - Learn to Race Better clinic #1
- 3 June - Founders' Day Sunfish Regatta
- 10 June - Fifth Spring Races 9-10
- 17 June - Sixth Spring Races 11-12
- 23-24 June - Sailing School #2 - Intro to Sailing
- 1 July - Fourth of July Series
Potluck Dinner Sunday at 5:00
- 4 July - Second day of Fourth of July Series
- 8 July - Camptown Races Sunfish Regatta
- 9-11 July - Junior Sailing Camp
- 12-13 July - Ladies Sailing Camp
- 15 July - Capri Club Championship
- 22 July - First Fall Races 1-2 and HSA Brunch at 11:00
- 29 July - Second Fall Races 3-4
- 5 August - the Amazing Race/Beach Day
- 12 August - Third Fall Races 3-4
- 18 August - Learn to Race Better Clinic #2
- 19 August - Fourth Fall Races 5-6
- 2-3 September - Labor Day Series; Potluck Dinner at 5:00 pm

9 September - Inter Fleet Championships

16 September - Fifth Fall Races 9-10

23 September - Sixth Fall Races 11-12

30 September - Around the Lake

6-7 October - OktoberFast Sunfish Regional Championship

13 October - Haul Out/Work Party

3 November - HSA Annual Banquet at Barn-n-Bunk at 6:00 pm



Lake Sebago Maine circa 1972; what is it? A sailboat parade! You can't tell from here but there is a line of canoes full of people in costume following the sailboats. It is the front of a postcard from a woman named Gwen to her friend Eleanor in Rhode Island. Photo on card may be from 50's. Not a cell phone in sight.