

English colonists, was constructed in 1607-1608 at the mouth of the Kennebec River. During her lifetime, *Virginia* crossed the Atlantic at least twice.

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.

This summer, Maine's First Ship was represented at the WoodenBoat show in Mystic, CT as well as at Tall Ships Portland. They also offered a three-week summer program featuring maritime history, marine carpentry, and rowing.

For more info, visit www.mfship.org.

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There is little to report on the *Ernestina-Morrissey*'s rebuild in Boothbay, ME. The 121-year-old schooner has been at the Boothbay Harbor Shipyard since May, but the \$6 million rebuild — financed by private donations, state funding, and the ongoing fundraising of the Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey Association (SEMA) — has yet to gather momentum.

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While the new steel *Columbia* out of Eastern Shipbuilding turned heads up and down the East Coast this

summer, the second *Columbia* hull has not yet been assembled, and apparently there are no plans to begin work on it until a buyer steps up.



MATTHEW TURNER

“The five modules have constructed,” said *Columbia* captain Karl Joyner, “but they’re still in the yard at Eastern, they haven’t been assembled yet.”

“We’re hoping to find someone who wants to take that project on, so that we can build that boat to the specifications of her owner. We’d like them to be able to build it to their specifications rather than build another boat on spec and hope that somebody likes it. Plus it’s a big outlay to build something like that and hope that someone buys it. As [Eastern owner]

Brian [D’Isernia] says, “We don’t need two!”

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She will never sail, but the schooner *Diligence*, being built as an exhibit inside the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia, continues to take shape. Busy as the waterfront was with the Tall Ships visit this summer and an ongoing haulout for the venerable *Gazela*, Mark Donohue and his crew have begun planking their project.

Diligence was a 1790s topsail schooner that was built in Philly for the Revenue Service and was briefly taken into the US Navy at the time of the Quasi-War with France. The exhibit will be some 65 feet on deck and 102 feet overall, with a beam of 19 feet. ☉



DILIGENCE is slowly but surely taking shape at the Independence Seaport Museum