

Launching the Rusty Duym '65 Sailing Fund

On September 18th, 2011 at a ceremony held at Blue Hill's Kollegewidgwock Yacht Club, the Rusty Duym '65 Sailing Fund was officially launched with members of the Becton and Duym families present, as well as GSA sailors, parents and friends in the community. Courtney Koos '12 and Tess Lameyer '12, co-captains, and members of the sailing team presented a plaque to the Becton family that will permanently commemorate their gift and tribute to Rusty Duym '65.

At the same event, GSA sailing coaches Tom Gutow and Patrick Haugen announced the establishment of the Becton Trophy Women's Double-Handed Maine State Championship, a new regatta named in honor of the Becton family and their long-standing support of GSA. The Becton Trophy Women's Double-Handed Maine State Championship is a combined event with the Maine Maritime Academy Women's Downeast Double-Handed Invite, co-hosted by GSA and MMA on October 2nd at Maine Maritime Academy. This inaugural year, Koos and Lameyer captured both championships.

Henry Becton, Jr. spoke on behalf of his family to express what motivated them to make the lead gift to establish the fund. Portions are quoted below:



Henry Becton displays the Rusty Duym '65 Sailing Fund plaque, flanked by his wife, Jean, and student sailor Courtney Koos '12. Also pictured, from top left: Stephen Salois '13, Steven Bell '12, and Gordon Lameyer '14. Tom Duym '75 stands behind the Bectons.

"I wanted to say a few words about what motivated our family to make the lead gift to get this fund established.

"It really was the confluence of three things. First, our life-long friendship and love for Rusty and desire to find a way to pay tribute to his talents and spirit in a lasting fashion; second, our belief in the importance of education, and specifically our long-standing support of George Stevens Academy; and third, our conviction, passed down from our parents, of the importance of a flourishing sailing program for young people in this community.

"The Blue Hill area has a long and rich history of connections to the sea that we think is a wonderful heritage to nurture. Esther Wood's history tells

us that one of the first subjects taught at George Stevens was Navigation.

"I remember seeing photographs from the 1800s of the inner harbor teeming with the masts of wooden ships, one of them probably belonging to George Stevens himself. ...This area has bred some outstanding sailboat racers. Most of you are aware that the crews of the classic America's Cup defenders in the early 1900s all came from Deer Isle. And we're proud that in recent years the George Stevens sailing team has distinguished itself in many regattas and championships, as we've just heard...

"Rusty Duym personified Blue Hill's connection to the sea and its championship sailors. The whole area celebrated as he won his class in the single-handed "Bermuda One-Two" race several years ago, on his beloved sloop, Williwaw, which he restored and equipped himself. Rusty won or helped several of us win more racing trophies than anyone I know. "Rusty had many other wonderful attributes and talents—teacher, musician, technician—but I want to say a few more things about Rusty as a sailing and racing companion for our family and for me. Rusty was a virtual member of our family since boyhood. My mother spotted him back then as a newcomer to the sailing program, saw his talent and passion, and took him under her wing—or should I say, her mainsail.

"In his early 20's Rusty became a regular member of the crew on our racing yawl, Ariana. As Dad began campaigning Lucero, his yellow Atlantic, Rusty signed on, first as crew and later when Dad retired,

as his successor, skippering the “banana boat” as we sometimes called it, and proudly wearing those yellow and orange tee shirts around town that he had made for his crew. And he eventually became my partner in racing our sloop, Otter, and keeping her in racing trim. He was a continuing presence at Sculpin Point. from June to October, ready to help

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with anything to do with boats, taking my parents for a sail when we weren't around, or fixing the odd troublesome fuel filter or sump pump.

“Racing Otter together, Rusty and I experienced an intuitive, non-verbal communication as

together we adjusted the trim to every small change in the breeze or in the look of the jib along the luff. No one could anticipate when a spinnaker was about to curl or fold like Rusty could. From his position near the mast he'd throw a glance back at me at the wheel. And sometimes I knew that it meant he was going to trim the sheet six or eight inches. It was sheer joy to be in touch with the elements together, reading and riding the literal and figurative waves.

“In the weeks following Rusty's death, several of us wanted to do something to insure that other young people from this community could learn the same sailing and racing skills, the same appreciation as stewards of this beautiful Bay, and the same joys of being out on the water.

“So we decided to work with his family and with George Stevens Academy to establish the Rusty Duym '65 Sailing Fund to endow support for the sailing program. Rusty loved to teach and mentor young people, and these funds will keep that part of his spirit alive. We hope you'll consider joining us in contributing to this Fund.

“It's hard for many of us to imagine our lives on the water without Rusty's physical presence. But we're happy that his sailing spirit, his broad waterman's skills, his dependable good humor, his modest, quiet strength, and his mentorship of young people will be kept alive through this fund.”



*Rusty Duym '65 on the water.
Photo courtesy of Suzanne Gillette.*



Jeffery Becton with Becton Trophy Women's Double-Handed Maine State champions Tess Lameyer '12 and Courtney Koos '12

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To make a gift to the Rusty Duym '65 Sailing Fund, contact Rada Starkey, Director of Development.