

July 4, 2015 for Immediate release:

MAINE SAIL FREIGHT:

[Greenhorns](#), a non-profit for young farmers organization, announces the maiden voyage of MAINE SAIL FREIGHT, shipping of regional agricultural products down the coast of Maine by sail-powered ship. It's a summer-long pageant celebrating our regional food economy, its history and future. The Harvey Gamage will arrive, laden with Maine-grown cargo, to the Long Wharf at Boston Harbor on August 29th in the evening.

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What is the economy of the future?

In August 2015, [MAINE SAIL FREIGHT](#) will sail 11 tons of Maine-grown cargo from Maine down to Boston aboard the beloved 131-foot traditional wooden schooner, [Harvey Gamage](#). We will load cargo (and eat oysters) on August 23rd at Waterman's Community Center at North Haven's Fox Islands

thoroughfare. The majority of cargo, 10 more tons, will come aboard on August 27th in Portland Harbor.

The approximately \$70,000 worth of cargo, packaged in traditional boxes, will sail down the coast to Boston Harbor, where it will be celebrated and unloaded from the hold on August 30th. Then transported by a fleet of [cherry-red trailer bicycles](#) to Boston Public Market and other regional outlets. The cargo will be both pre-sold [online](#) and will also be available to passers-by for purchase dockside. We especially look forward to face-to-face contact, so please come visit us at one of the stops.

In the first week of September we'll continue selling to bicyclists, stroller-pushers, and mass-transit riders at the [Boston Public Market](#), a new municipally-owned market built as an instrument for civic life and local enterprise by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture and the Trustees of Reservation, and other locations. Each point in the journey will be accompanied by cultural programming relating to our common maritime history and provocative discussion about our common and maritime future.

In addition to the maiden cargo voyage to Boston, we have planned a full series of dock-side events with a suite of other sailboats to extend the drama! Nearly a dozen additional picnics, day-events, trade-trainings, lectures, dinner parties, live musical performances, puppet shows, historical programs, kids crafts, and side stunts.

On July 20th, we've got a full afternoon and evening **TALL SHIPS AFTERPARTY** and TTIP teach in at Thompson's Point in **Portland Maine**. We've invited our favorite agrarian bands, including [The Parlor](#), [Will Dailey](#) and [Milk and Honey Rebellion](#)- as well as sea shanty singer Paul Hartney. It's a stop-

over event for Neil Young's [Monsanto Year's tour](#)-- so we'll have a full complement of organic agriculture activists in attendance, and perhaps a special guest or two. The focus of the training is on 'terms of trade' with a training by Food and Water watch regional director Alex Beauchamps and Maine Fair Trade and the Citizen Policy Commission about the impact of the TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, a free trade agreement) on New England agriculture. Come early, stay late-- tall ships forever!

On August 11th, in Hallowell Maine (just next to the capital city of Augusta) from 4pm- dusk we've got a wonderful program of family-friendly activities and a lesson on river trade thanks to the historians at Fort Williams, plus a small fleet of traditional Norse wooden-boats, led by the [Scholarshipwrights](#), who will sail down the Kennebec River to pick up cargo from the farmers market at the town landing. Children will be amused + educated by the programming thanks to partners [Sheepscot General Store](#), Duckback Work-song singers, and [Grange-Corner Farm](#). Free and open to the public.

RSVPs are needed for the **August 27th in Portland, Maine** a very special "stevadore send-off" dinner, and **August 29th at Long Wharf, Boston Harbor** for the arrival "cargo gala." In addition to these dockside-dinners, we have **8 open berths** up the coast, and back down-- for adventurous sail-trainees/stevadores. There is an application process to come on the boat, and a fee.

*Details on www.thegreenhorns.net/mainesailfreight/
RSVP to mainesailfreight@thegreenhorns.net*

All events:

The [Project Homepage](#) has descriptions of the full schedule of events:

(*some require RSVP)

June 28: Songs of Land and Sea by Brian Dewan. Halcyon Grange, Blue Hill ME

July 10: Windjammers Parade. Rockland, ME

July 14-15: LaFayette's Hermione. Public Dock, Castine, ME

July 18, 19, 20: Tall Ships Event. Portland Harbor, ME

July 20: TPP/TTIP Hipster Picnic with Young + Old Rockstars live!

Concert. Thompson's Point, Portland, ME

August 4: Sail and lecture aboard the Gundalow Company's Piscataqua Sailing barge, regional foods dinner at the shore-side Piscataqua Cafe. New Castle, NH*

August 11: Family Sail Day and boat parade down the Kennebec river. Town Park, Hallowell, ME (4 pm til dark)

August 14-16: Maine Boats, Homes and Harbors Show. Rockland, ME

August 23: Rendezvous in the Thoroughfare. Waterman's Community Center, North Haven, ME

August 27: Cargo Load. Portland Harbor, ME

August 29: Arrival at Long Wharf tip, at Compass Rose Plaza, Boston Harbor, MA

August 30: Cargo Unload. Boston Harbor Union Wharf and Boston Public Market, Boston, MA

Online Cargo "order form" will soon be available at the [FIDDLER'S GREEN WEBSITE](#).

****VISUAL MATERIALS**** Online album of [high resolution images](#) of the sail boats, research, farmers etc.

Value, all along the chain!

There is a saying that "As goes Maine, so goes the Nation." We hope this is true, because Maine leads the nation with a 40% increase in [farmers under 34 in the last USDA Census period](#). The delicious diet of this region grows richer and more diverse by the year. More and more young farmers pour into the state, to settle + raise vegetables, fruit and livestock in snug farmhouses with dooryard lilacs. And some harvest seafood and algae. They join the now grey-haired organic pioneers in the region's growing local food economy, their combined efforts yielding a mostly-harmonious, inter-generational dynamism. In an effort to reflect this dynamism, our fully-transparent on-board value chain contains both traditional and next generation products. Wool, onions, beans, grains, honey, and maple syrup are joined by wild-harvested seaweed, goat-milk caramels, tanned hides of sheep and cashmere goats, dried blueberry-pancake mix, and pickled garlic scapes. Thanks to our logistics partner [Crown of Maine Organic Cooperative](#)(COMOC) and their sister company [Fiddlers Green Farm](#), we know the provenance and story of each ounce on board, and each order comes with a manifest describing each link in our value-chain. COMOC is a cooperative, family-run business that moves about 2.3 million dollars of Maine-grown produce, mostly from small family farms around the state of Maine every year. As leaders in facilitating regional food autonomy, their vision and work surrounding trade promotes the practice of food sovereignty. We welcome the public to witness, and celebrate the logistics involved with this work.

This ain't no Sysco- system, and more is at stake than a financial transaction. Consolidation of food distribution means fewer and fewer national and international companies coordinate trade in this country. Transparency and integrity lose out as 18-wheelers criss-cross the continent delivering mass-produced commodities in lock-step schedule,

centralizing control, privileging specialization + monopoly. But there are many reasons to veer away from the status quo, and truck traffic isn't the least of it. We're hoisting our sail to celebrate the new regional economy's many benefits- and to protest the impact on young farmer livelihoods caused by concentration of power and poor labor conditions, which characterize our current global food system.

What do we want? More farms!

A diverse farm landscape, with farms of many types and sizes is better able to adapt to climate change, better able to welcome newcomers and young farmers, better able to support the secondary infrastructure of communities and local businesses. A more diverse, and more regional + adaptive supply chain gives growers the higher margins during shoulder seasons, extends market reach, and allows consumers a wider variety and lower carbon impact. Regional distribution builds wealth within the region, to businesses who then spend it locally, instead of siphoning profits into distant corporate headquarters and shareholders.

Everyone who eats should know more about the terms of trade.

We know it will take a lot of work to rebuild the infrastructure, expertise and capacity of our regional foodshed. We celebrate the Crown of Maine Cooperative as an exemplary protagonist, and hope to inspire others. .

From hand to hand, to box, to boat, to bike, our ethic is of exemplary transparency, a poetic counter-punch to the opaque,

anonymous, insincere and abusive conditions of today's global menu. At the center of this project is a provocation to examine the terms and scale of our trade, and what kind of approach and technology makes sense. Having deliberated the best methods for the project of re-regionalizing our agricultural production and distribution systems, we've chosen to focus on cooperative methods and cooperative businesses.

Organized along democratic principles of co-ownership, the [cooperative-form](#) makes a lot of sense because cooperatives focus on mutual benefit. That means we're in it for the long term, in relationship with each other and anchored to the place we're based. We care about the health of the watershed and the soil, we care about what the farmer is paid at the gate. Because our port towns must thrive, we care that there's a working economy for boats and sailors. We want an honest cut for the delivery cyclists and the logistics staff typing on the computer, and we'd like a little profit margin set aside to develop the project further. A far cry from the 18-wheeler truck stop, we recognize that this regional economy is a team effort.

Young farmers, big vision

This maiden voyage, hopefully the first of many Maine Sail Freight missions, is organized by a young farmers' organization called the [Greenhorns](#). An 8-year-old grassroots network, the Greenhorns' mission is to promote, recruit, and support young people entering sustainable agriculture—people whose lives on the land represent direct-action toward a new, more regional and resilient American economy. Greenhorns celebrates and incubates the entry of new farmers in many ways, from cultural programming to media production and publishing. Along with the edible cargo, the literary cargo will include their sturdy little volume, *Greenhorns 2015 New*

Farmer's Almanac—a riff on Benjamin Franklin's format with essays and illustrations by 108 young agrarians—and the “Intergalactic Mix-tape of Agrarian Revolt” —a cassette collaboration with the Landworkers Alliance, an English farmers association. Alongside these will be stacks of handy, colorfully bound Guidebooks for new growers on topics such as AgroForestry, Forming Cooperatives and Getting into Agriculture. Also on board will be their first vinyl record “[Grange Future](#),” part of a larger Grange revival project. It's an audio collection of farmers songs from the late 1800's and the apex of a farmer-led Populist movement. These songs were recorded in Grange Halls by legendary performance artist [Brian Dewan](#).

What is our trading future?

We invite the public to experience the portend of this question—to engage with trade directly, clip-board in hand, across the thresholds of land and sea, past and future. Come, learn with us about the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment partnership(TTIP) currently in debate in Congress. Learn also about the New England [saltworks boom](#) of 1776 when our young colonial economy finally became self sufficient in seasalt, no longer importing from the British Caribbean. Today, working to create a resilient, regional, prosperous farm economy we will need courage, patience and the poise that comes from knowing how far we’ve already come. Squinting out to sea, scanning the ocean’s long horizon gives us a context to orient from. The sea is here, the land is here, the wind is here-- its our economy that we change to suit it.

About our Partners

Fiddler's Green- *Fiddler's Green is a nautical term describing a promised afterlife...where fiddles never stop playing, dancers never tire, and mirth abounds.* Fiddler's green is also a growing business involving a band of young entrepreneurs with guidance from the family owners who have run Fiddler's for the past 17 years! We make delicious cereals, pancake & baking mixes. The high quality ALL ORGANIC grains are stone ground to order in small batches for vitamin richness and superior flavor. We have been milling grains in midcoast Maine and our cereals have won critical acclaim nationally!

<http://www.fiddlersgreenfarm.com/>

Greenhorns- Punk yeoman to the core, Greenhorns is a grassroots organization working nationally, and based in the Champlain Valley of New York. Greenhorns creates cultural programming and media for, with, and about the young farmers movement. We've been around since 2008, when we started with the feature documentary *The Greenhorns*. We've since moved through various kinds of social and not-so-social media, radio, podcast, blogs, anthology, cassette tape, almanac, posters, and guidebooks to name a few. We're ceaselessly evolving our programs and campaigns based on the emergent and articulated needs of the young farmers we serve. Our mission is to support, promote, and recruit the next generation of sustainable farmers onto the land. We are a 501c(3) project of Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (S.E.E.), and as such all donations are tax deductible. www.thegreenhorns.net

Harvey Gamage- Built in 1973 by famous shipbuilder Harvey Gamage, who also turned out the Mary Day, Shenandoah, Bill of Rights, and Pete Seeger's Clearwater. The boat that bears his name has been a beloved vessel of the educational sailing fleet for more than 20 years. She's a wooden schooner, nicknamed "Hardly Damaged," who holds 9 crew and berths 25

passengers. She's now under new ownership by Portland Shipyard owner Phineas Sprague and will make her living on charters for advocacy, science, and vocational education, as well as pleasure cruising.

Crown O' Maine Organic Cooperative (COMOC)- Crown of Maine grew out of a family farm in Aroostook County. Dedicated to serving Maine since 1995, Crown O' Maine distributes locally grown produce across the length and breadth of Maine. COMOC welcomes your buying club, restaurant, or neighborhood retail establishment to our growing collection of foods produced by your local farmers, fishermen, and artisans. <http://www.crownofmainecoop.com/>

Penobscot Marine Museum- Situated in historic Searsport with twelve exhibit buildings on three acres, the Museum preserves, interprets, and celebrates the maritime culture of the Penobscot Bay region and beyond through collections, education, and community engagement. <http://penobscotmarinemuseum.org/>

The **Gundalow Company**- The Gundalow Company's mission – to protect the Piscataqua Region's maritime heritage and environment through education and action. Their programs – held throughout the tidal towns of the Piscataqua – connect maritime history with contemporary coastal issues such as water quality, habitat restoration, conservation, and stewardship. <http://www.gundalow.org/>

The Market in Boston

A Full listing of partners and our dozens of collaborators can be found at the project's web-page: www.thegreenhorns.net/mainesailfreight

