

Give Me the Sea
Eric Laux

There are some who yearn for the open sky, with its pristine offering of hope, but the clouds hold nothing for me.

Instead promise me the sea, wide and deep, and the joy of treading her waves. Let me have just the water, and hope will wing to me.

Others dream of the vast-spread plains, a rich bounty their offering, but I do not wish for the wealth of the grasses.

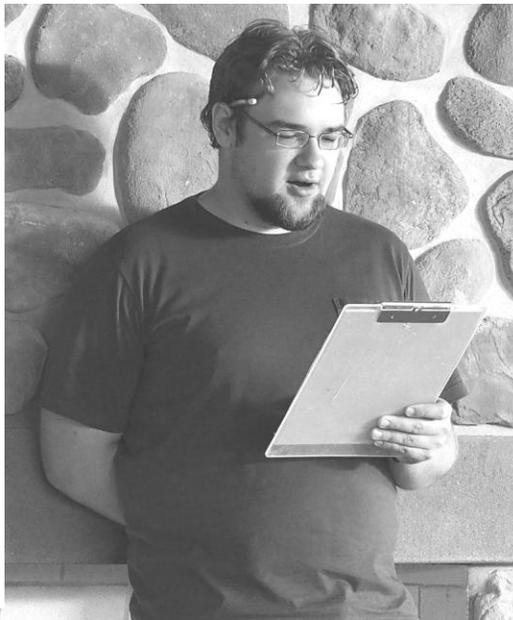
Instead give me sail, strong and taut, with all the swiftness that awaits. Let me just have the unbreaking iron that lies hidden in canvas, and I will be as rich as I ever need.

Give me a hull, a mast, give me rope and give me crew, I shall want for naught. Keep your sky and keep your plains, keep your hope and keep your wealth.

Leave only for me a ship, strong and swift. Leave only for me a crew, loyal and fierce. Leave only for me the water, for there I am free.

There, I am home.

Eric Laux reads his poem at the Black Tie Event during the Rally at Wellesley Island State Park.



Wellesley Island State Park, Thousand Islands
July 18—25, 2015 by Trish McDermott W1392

Trish and husband, Scott Bogue attended their first rally and Trish related these impression in her article written for the Lake Townsend August newsletter.

Imagine beautifully clear water splashed with islands that have summer cottages and even some castles. Lots of green and blue, and spectacular multicolored

sunsets. A place that makes you sigh with contentment and sheer pleasure. The Thousand Islands.



Ten year old Julien Asselstine, grandson of Alan and Mary and the youngest participant at the WISP Rally, looks completely comfortable at the helm.

It's a thirteen hour drive from Greensboro, but worth every hour, even worth the occasional traffic jam. The Thousand Islands area has that northern rocky ruggedness from tough winters and the genteelness of "summertime and the livin' is easy." Lush with pines, beautiful hardwoods, intriguing island homes, and a rocky shoreline, it's easy to fall in love with the area.

Twenty-two Wayfarers and one GP-14 from as far as Florida, Wisconsin, Michigan, and of course, North Carolina, joined the many Canadian Wayfarers to cruise the St. Lawrence River. It was very interesting sailing in a current. One excursion took us through a narrow passage where a big tour boat honked at us to get out of the way. Sailing downwind with the current made for tough maneuvering. Once through the narrows, we were headed into the wind and against the current. Some of us were sailing backward! Tacking a million times, it seemed like we were getting nowhere. The wind was shifty, sometimes strong, and occasionally it died right in the midst of us hiking to keep the boat flat.

The entire event was well organized, with morning meetings to discuss the cruise for the day. Many sailors were familiar with sailing the St. Lawrence and brought their charts. Each day was a different route around picturesque islands and through narrow passages where sometimes the paddles had to come out. We stopped at idyllic Canoe Point for lunch