

Classic

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The shop floor is arranged for building twenty boats a year by progressing through various stations around the perimeter.

GRAND CRAFT'S NEW LOCATION

Photos by Classic Boating

Grand Craft, the company formed in 1979 by Steve Northius and Chris Smith in Holland, Michigan, to build retro style speedboats that were bought by celebrities like Robert Redford, Jennifer Lopez, Tim Allen and Kid Rock, has moved its operation to Genoa City, Wisconsin, under its new owner, Patrick Gallagher.

The company that initially built runabouts inspired by Chris-Crafts had a number of owners throughout its 43 year history. Northius sold to Richard Sligh, who sold the company in 2005 and served as president until 2009. The company



Grand Craft Boat's leased 22,000 sq ft shop, offices, and showroom, with solar paneled roof, was built one year ago, at 1021 Williams Road in Genoa City, Wisconsin.



Grand Craft's new logo.

ceased production that year, and was purchased in 2010 by Jeff Cavanagh, owner of Anchorage Marine Service in Park Township.

Grand Craft was acquired from Cavanagh by Patrick and Rose Gallagher in February.

While Holland was once a hub for boat manufacturing according to Patrick Gallagher, the decision to move was solely about roots.

"Lake Geneva and Chicago-



Grand Craft's director of operations, Jeff Podhajsky and owner, Patrick Gallagher.

land are home for Rose and I," he said. "We had no ties to Holland. There was absolutely nothing negative associated with the move.

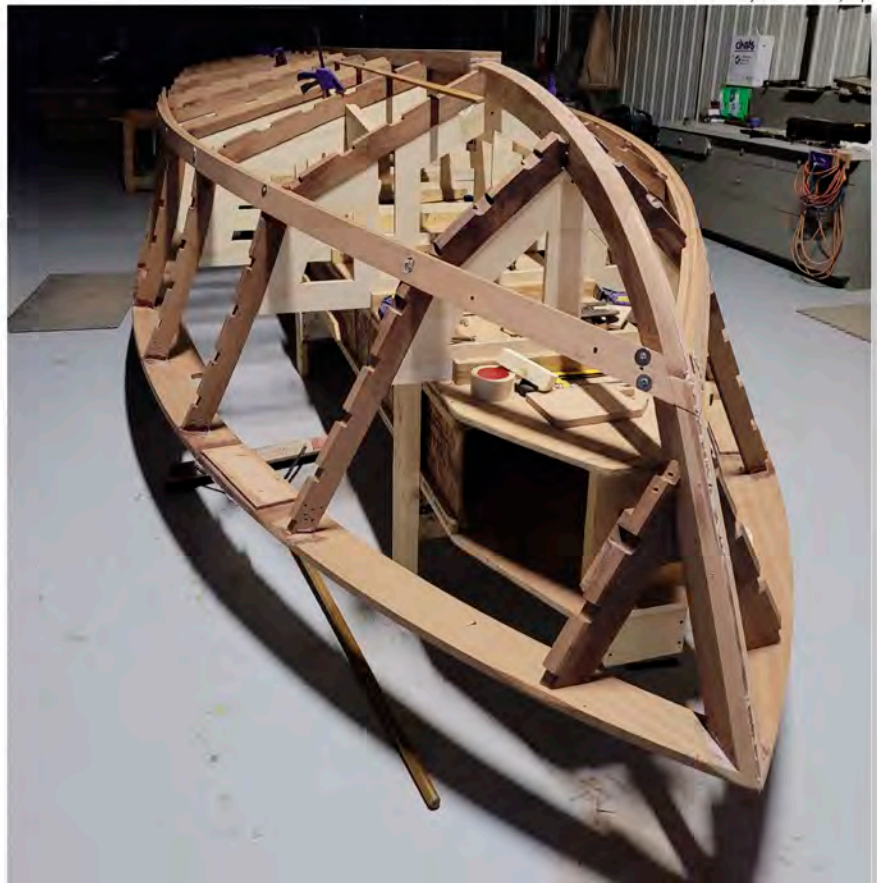
"Holland is a beautiful area and a great place to hire talented, hardworking people. We definitely want to give a nod to our company's four decades there, but we felt we needed to be close to where we live and are raising our children."

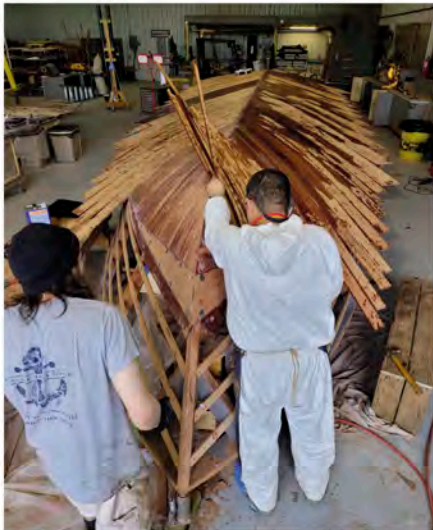
The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation has supported the relocation with state income tax credits over the next three years. The actual amount of credits received is contingent on the number of jobs created and



The Grand Craft 26' Burnham shows its book-matched planking and a convex bottom that Steve Northius calls the Gage-Hacker bottom. Wall-mounted power units, at left, convert the power from the roof's solar panels from DC current to AC current.

Photo by Jeff Podhajsky





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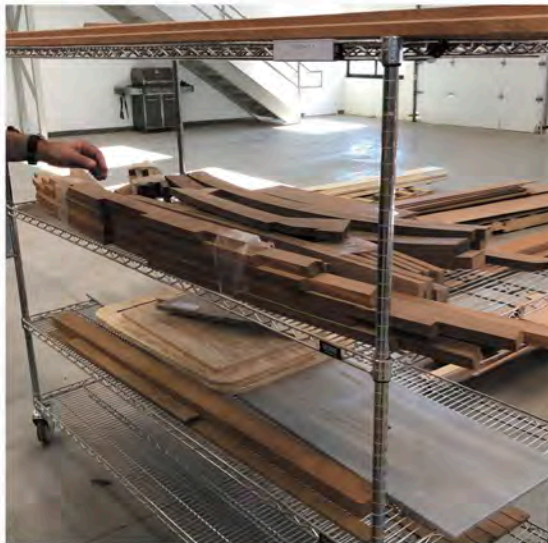
The bottom of the Burham 26-footer has three diagonal layers and hull sides have two diagonal layers and one horizontal.

capital invested. Currently, Grand Craft employs six.

The company, and its boats, still have ties to Holland. Hull components and frame members are CNC routed by Mike Teusink's The Wooden Runabout Company, making for a precise fitting framework.

Another Michigan connection is with Zeeland Architecture Components in Zeeland. Zeeland takes sapele panels 7"

RIGHT: Deck beams, frames and trim details CNC routed by Mike Teusink's Wooden Boats.



to 10" wide and rips them to 3" to 4" widths. A machine called the Optimizer, that minimizes the waste of a board, takes a stack of the 3" and 4" wide pieces and epoxies them together, alternating the grain pattern and builds it into a 42" wide by 8' long panel. Then they run it through a machine that cleans off any epoxy ooze and sizes the board down to 7/8" thick. Overall length is 96", the limit of Mike Teusink's CNC router. The big panels are solid pieces of sapele that have been joined, not laminated, but joined end to end to get better dimensional stability. The furniture company makes the panel and Mike Teusink routs it.



The landlord envisioned Grand Craft's facility as a distribution center with natural light, four large garage doors on one side and two more on the opposite side.



The final varnish coat is sprayed on in the neighboring professionally constructed spray booth that meets all the myriad stringent regulations.

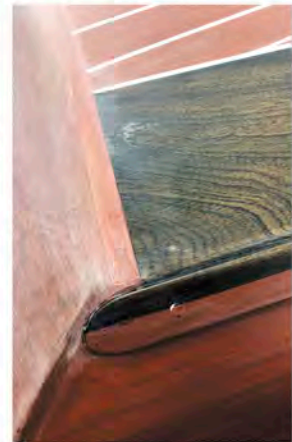


Patrick Gallagher explains the various gauges to be installed on the instrument panel to Larry Larkin.



the city of Chicago, a nod to Patrick Gallagher's Chicago roots.

Grand Craft's Genoa City operation is less than 10 miles from Lake Geneva, one of the company's primary markets along with Minnetonka, Loon Lake, and Pine Lake. *PC*



As Grand Craft ramps up production, they are focusing on the Burnham model, a 26' long open cockpit speed boat with comfortable seating for 6-7 passengers. Power is a V-drive Ilmor 6.2 GDI engine rated at 430 hp at 5,400 rpm and 479 ft-lbs torque @ 4,000 rpm. Company founder, Steve Northius, calls the boat's bottom a Gage-Hacker bottom in reference to John Hacker being called out of retirement to design one last stock speedboat for Gage Marine on Lake Geneva.

The boat's model name, Burnham, is in tribute to the city planner who laid out



The showroom, for selling new and reconditioned Grand Crafts, where customers can also choose from available upholsteries and floor coverings.