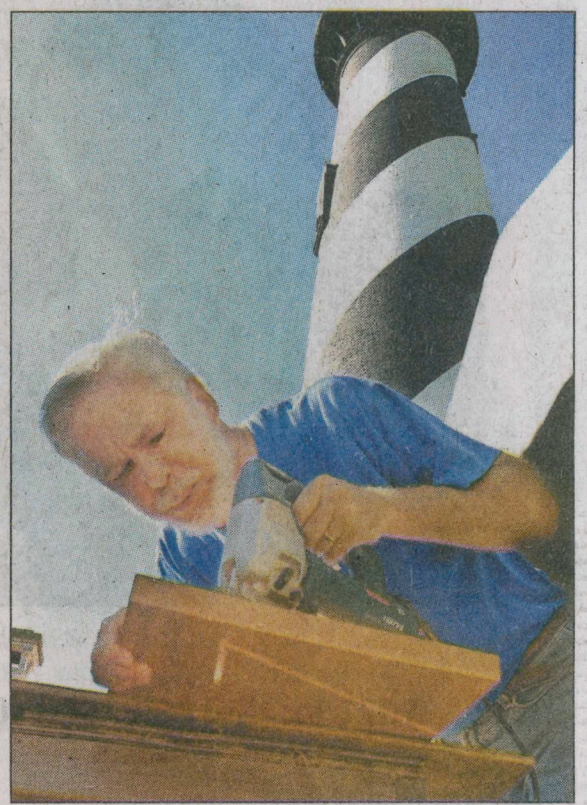


In the canvas-covered work space, Maury Keiser takes care with the Bivins skiff he's making his grandson.

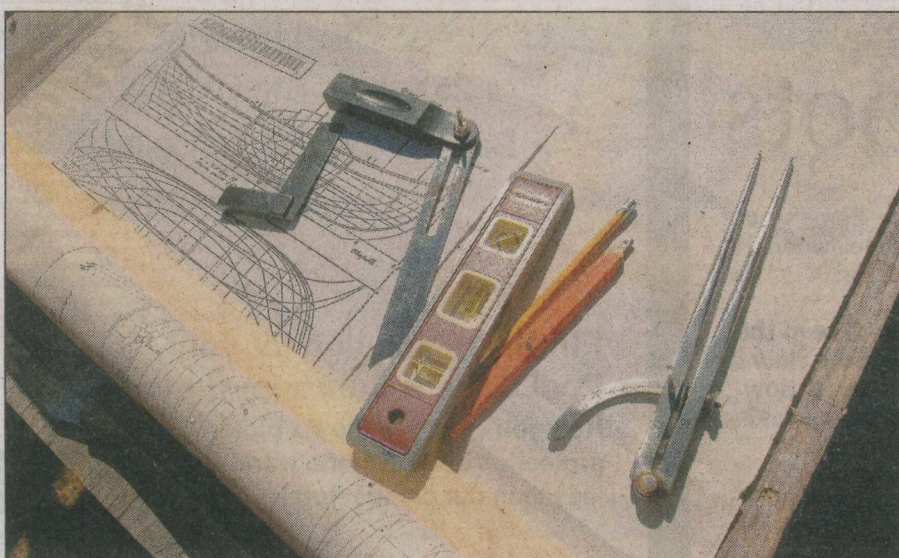


By the St. Augustine Lighthouse, Richard Sexhauer cuts a piece of mahogany that will be the transom of the 1740-era yawl.

BUILDING BOATS



Retired doctor Jim Gaskins watches closely as another volunteer marks the place where ribbing will be installed on a boat.



Using a variety of tools, the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program volunteers have been building replica boats for four years.

Photos and words by **JOHN PEMBERTON**/The Times-Union

After passing through the gift shop, visitors walk through restored buildings to the courtyard of the St. Augustine Lighthouse. The black-and-white 165-foot-tall lighthouse is the main attraction. Children love the circular climb of the 219 steps, and on self-guided tours, visitors hold an auditory guide close to their ear and listen to the history of the lighthouse.

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, though, it's not unusual to hear other sounds as well.

A group of men, volunteers for LAMP (the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program) have been hammering, sawing and measuring wood the past four years, building replica

LEARN MORE

Visitors can see the boats and the men building them at the St. Augustine Lighthouse. For more information, go to www.staugustinelighthouse.com.

boats that have been known to ply the waters of the Matanzas inlet.

Under a canvas-covering, Maury Keiser works on his yellow-and-green Bivins skiff, built for his grandson and painted in the requested colors. Keiser jokes that he hopes he can finish it before his grandson's graduation — either high school or college.

BOATS continues on E-6