September 25, 2013

Ahoy Mates!

The Cal Fremling Interpretive Center and Floating Classroom is taking shape and WSU’s custom vessel is beginning to look like a boat! Skipperliner is located on French Island in LaCrosse, WI, and is an amazing facility, as evidenced by the number of “WOW’s” uttered as Dr. Olson, Gary Evans and I entered. Jeb, Pam and Pete Griffith graciously shared a glimpse of how a boat of this size is built. The following photos are from August 21 and September 23. Take a look at the progress of this exciting and distinctive project.

The bow develops its shape through a system of chains and pulleys.
¼" steel hull – meets US Coast Guard specifications and is ultra-durable for long life

All-steel construction on the hull (no wood in the framing in the hull) and main deck also reduces maintenance

The bow is prepped for the boarding ramp and the waste and water tanks have been installed in the hull. The fuel tank is fabricated and waiting to be installed into the hull.
Recently completed the hull construction including the transom (in the stern) with cutouts for twin diesel engines. The engines will join up with commercial I/O drives. The grade of drives were selected for long-life and reduced maintenance as well as their capacity to trim up for beaching and shallower water navigation.

Holes for the bow thruster are cut into the bow. The bow thruster aides the vessel operation in river currents, during docking maneuvers and during high winds. Work has begun on the upper deck.

Thank you again for your support of the Cal Fremling boat project. It is exciting to consider opportunities for discovery, innovation and inspiration it will bring to learners of all ages. Stay tuned for additional updates and don’t hesitate to contact the office of University Advancement with questions.

Looking forward to summer 2014 on the river!

Debbie Block

Director of Development
Winona State University
PO Box 5838
Winona MN 55987
507-457-2412
dblock@winona.edu