

Paul Teachout's Skiff Provenance

According to MFH curator's notes from talking with Bud Kirk:

Paul Teachout build the skiff in 1944-45 and used it until his death. He used almost primitive/almost 18th century tools and natural crooks to make [illegible]. Went to the dump for parts he needed. Bow faced rowing possible in skiff. Paul fished from the skiff a little bit, but only used the sail once. It was his own design. The oarlock brackets were made from red mangrove.

According to the Naples Daily News article by Marty Bonvechio on March 14, 1982 (covering the donation of the object to the Museum of Florida History):

Around 1972, Paul was found by Goodland resident, Bud Kirk, living in a hollow log in a mudflat in the swamp near Goodland, and Kirk took him home and let him live in the shack where Kirk built his crab traps. Teachout lived there until he died around 3 years later (c. 1975-76), and Kirk inherited the boat. **These dates were found to be incorrect**, however, since Paul died in Goodland in December 1968. It sat in Bud's backyard until Kirk donated it to the Museum of Florida History (Tallahassee, FL) circa early 1982.

History at Museum of Florida History:

The skiff has been at the Museum of Florida History from 1982 until January 2021. Based on photos from the Naples Daily News article (shown in what appears to be Bud Kirk's backyard) and the Winter 1982 issue of Tallahassee Magazine (capturing the skiff in museum storage), the stern deck was intact post-donation, meaning the damage was caused while in storage at MFH. On August 10, 2020, MFH curator, Bruce Graetz, reached out to MIHS Curator of Collections, Austin Bell, inquiring if we were interested in the transfer of the skiff to our collections. The MIHS made the decision to accept the skiff from MFH in September 2020, and Austin Bell couriered the skiff from MFH to the Marco Island Historical Museum on January 12, 2021.