Introducing a carbon-neutral transport initiative connecting the farms and forests of Lake Champlain with the Lower Hudson Valley

“History doesn't repeat itself, but it does rhyme”
--Mark Twain
A collaboration between local farmers and the Willowell Foundation

Our Goals:

- Develop and prove a modern method of cargo distribution using sail power
- Involve students and the community
- Enhance area farmers' livelihoods through access to superior markets
- Generate excitement and inspiration for creative energy innovation
- Demonstrate a constructive community-scale approach to energy descent
How can freight watercraft add to urban sustainability?

- Utilize pre-existing city layout features and infrastructure (low redeployment costs)
- Lowest carbon cost per ton mile
- Foster civic engagement at the waterfront
What kinds of foods can we transport by sail?

- Grains, flours, and beans
- Sauces, jellies, hot sauce, preserves, pickles, saurkraut
- Hard cider and wine
- Dry beans
- Shelf stable fresh produce like apples and cabbages
- Root vegetables like potatoes, carrots, onions, garlic
- Coffee, sugar, chocolate
15 tons of food. 330 miles. VSFP is a new take on the Vernacular Merchant Marine Tradition!

www.vermontsailfreightproject.org
The Whole Ball of Wax

- Brought about nearly entirely by volunteers
- Based on a systems-thinking approach
- Farming and Food System-Centered
- Regional in Scope
- Based on time-proven technologies
- Adaptive to contemporary economic constraints
- Adaptive to today's tendency to live life online
- Part of a worldwide rebirth of working sail
- Supported by grants and donations
- Expected to become self-sustaining within a 2-year timeframe
Trading Concept

- Internet pre-orders / waterside pickup
- Cash sales of onboard inventory while en route
- Wholesale to NYC resellers who can then use our delivered by sail label
Ceres

LOA: 39'6”
Beam: 10 1 1/2”
Rig: Spritsail (can be lowered)
Displacement: 38,000 lbs
GRT: 14.92 Tons
Classification: Cargo ship, uninspected
Home Port: Vergennes, Vermont
Construction Budget: $20000
Hull Material: AC fir plywood with epoxy fiberglass sheathing
Crew complement: 2-3
Implications

- A revival of inland working sail can generate employment while moving goods around the region without fuel cost or carbon emissions.
- Simplified designs executed with common, low-cost materials will be easily executed by a variety of communities, and adaptable to particular needs.
- Population centers are already located on working waterways. The infrastructure for working sail already largely exists.
- Working sail can find ways to function economically in the world as it is while simultaneously preparing for approaching changes.
- Sail is an ancient, beautiful and compelling technology.