

About the Finger Lakes Boating Museum

The [Finger Lakes Boating Museum \(FLBM\)](#) is located on a **14-acre campus** in Hammondsport, New York. The property encompasses **19 total buildings**, featuring a **32,000-square-foot, four-story main building** (the former Taylor Wine Company headquarters) alongside a **30,000-square-foot boat storage and restoration building**. [1, 2, 3]

Facility Information

The museum has steadily rehabilitated the historic winery structures into dedicated public and educational spaces: [4]

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- **Exhibit Halls:** The main building spans **three floors of history across six distinct galleries**. Notable displays include Building 10, which features a hand-built indoor dock visitors can walk on beneath 40 handmade hanging gulls. [1, 4, 5, 6]
- **The Collection:** It houses **over 200 antique boats** built exclusively by more than 40 commercial regional builders. The vintage craft include canoes, rowboats, sailboats, outboards, inboards, and hydroplanes. [7, 8]
- **Active Boat Shops:** The campus houses **two functional boat restoration shops** where visitors can watch volunteers repair and preserve vintage wooden craft in real time. [6, 9]
- **Finger Lakes Boating Academy (FLBA):** The museum's primary educational branch provides hands-on boatbuilding courses, youth programs, and monthly lectures. [7, 9]
- **On-Water Excursions:** FLBM operates the ***Pat II*, a fully restored historic wooden vessel**, which takes visitors on educational cruises directly onto Keuka Lake. [10, 11]
- **Historic Event Space:** The former **1886 Taylor Wine Company cellars** function as a unique venue rental for up to 65 guests. The space still features the original 2,000-gallon oak wine casks. [12, 13]

History

- **1996 (Inception):** The museum was conceived by a small group of antique boating enthusiasts in Penn Yan, NY. They were deeply concerned by the rapid

disappearance of locally built wooden boats and wanted to document the maritime heritage of the region's 14 counties.

- **The Wandering Years:** For nearly two decades, the museum lacked a permanent home. The collection stayed largely in storage for most of the year, only being brought out for annual summer festivals or partial displays at Cayuga Lake State Park.
- **2013–2014 (The Permanent Site):** The turning point occurred in October 2013 when Mercury Aircraft donated the **14-acre historic Taylor Wine Company property** to the museum. The site originally opened in 1886 as the Columbia Wine Company before being acquired by Taylor Wine in 1919. FLBM officially took possession in February 2014 and opened its doors to the public that June.
- **Volunteer Expansion:** The transition from wine production to a public museum was achieved via an all-volunteer crew. Over the last decade, volunteers have painstakingly torn down office dividers, exposed and sanded historic wooden floors, and re-wired structures to steadily open new wings and buildings on the property. [1, 2, 4, 8, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17]

[1] <https://www.mytwintiers.com>

[2] <https://www.lifeinthefingerlakes.com>

[3] <https://www.newyorkalmanack.com>

[4] <https://westsidenewsny.com>

[5] <https://www.flbm.org>

[6] <https://www.facebook.com>

[7] <https://www.fingerlakes.com>

[8] <https://business.yatesny.com>

[9] <https://www.flbm.org>

[10] <https://www.facebook.com>

[11] <https://www.weny.com>

[12] <https://www.flbm.org>

[13] <https://www.flbm.org>

[14] <https://www.christinesmyczynski.com>

[15] <https://www.causeiq.com>

[16] <https://tradeonlytoday.com>

[17] <https://www.fingerlakes.org>