

# Rocking the Boat in the Bronx

by John Michael Vargo

Hard against the Cross Bronx Expressway in an unassuming storefront is the inner-city heart of Rocking the Boat.

Inside, Bronx High School students in a small well-equipped shop are building a 16th century lap strake hulled rowboat. Meeting two nights a week under the supervision of boat builder, Chris Kantz.

This afternoon with Chris's help, a program assistant and a student, Elsie and Manny are wrestling a fire bent oak plank around the frame of what will be the companion of the 16th century sailboat, The Onrust being built in Rotterdam, N. Y. Nearby Javier, another program assistant is shaving a wooden oar into shape.



Elsie and Manny are wrestling a fire bent oak plank.

While Chris and his assistants continued working, I am introduced to the founder and director Adam Green.

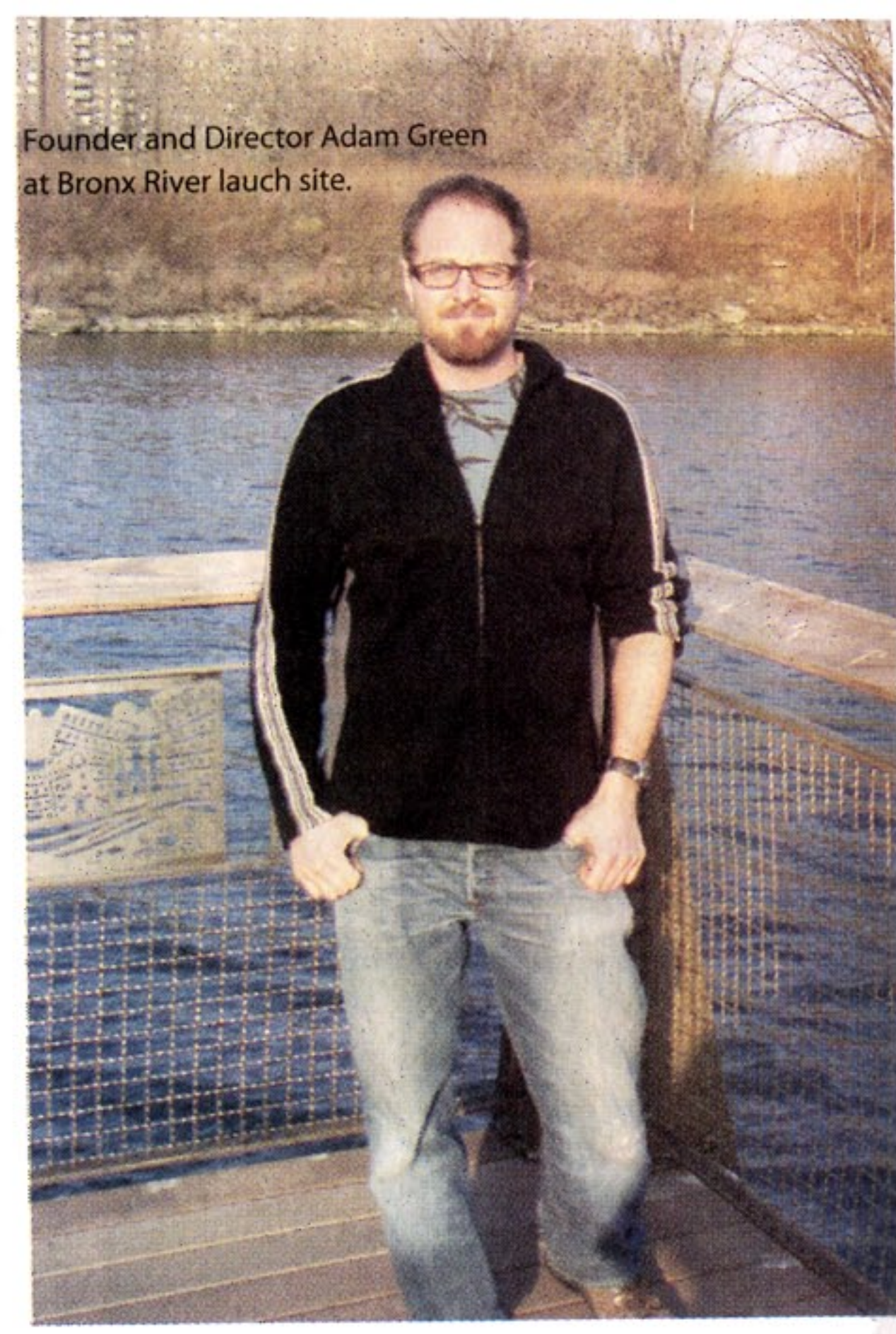
A city boy himself albeit from Manhattan, Adam became enthralled with boating as a child after taking an excursion on the Clearwater with his parents. After graduating from Vassar, he taught Junior high school in East Harlem. While there, along with ten students he built an eight-foot dinghy that had it's sea trials in the school's swimming pool. From this inauspicious beginning came the seeds for Rocking the Boat.

After teaching for three years he joined the crew of the Clearwater to sharpen his skills as a boat builder. After an eight-month apprenticeship he returned to New York City and, in collaboration with Hostos Community College in the South Bronx he started Rocking the Boat as a non-profit organization.

While we are talking a social worker enters the office to arrange a meeting with this semester's after school boat

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Founder and Director Adam Green at Bronx River launch site.



Javier shaping an oar.



