



PLEASURE BOATS moored in the Branford River looking east from the Branford Point dock. Photo courtesy of the Branford Historical Society

Pictures of the Past

Yachting's proved popular for many summer seasons

Yachting in Branford

Branford is ideally located on the river to provide many forms of summer recreation. During the colonial period the river was used for commercial shipping and Branford products were exported along the eastern seaboard and as far south as the West Indies. It was not until the latter part of the 19th century that the Branford River was used for pleasure boating.

At the turn of the century Branford waters were very popular for sailboats of all sizes and annual regattas were held at the Thimble Islands. The Pine Orchard Club was founded in 1901 and moved to its present location in 1916 to provide mooring for its members' yachts. Some of the finest boats in the area were moored at the club. The Johnson family of Short Beach and the Edwin Baldwin family of Branford were

early pioneers in the building of naphtha launches and motorized boats soon became as popular as sailboats.

The Branford Yacht Club was founded in 1909 and after reorganizing in 1927 moved to the "Dock House" at Branford Point. In 1938 the club had 223 members and moored more than 100 boats. The clubhouse sustained considerable damage during the '38 hurricane and all but one boat was saved. The Branford Yacht Club purchased land and moved to Goodsell Point in 1946 where it is still in operation.

Today hundreds of pleasure boats are moored at many locations along the Branford River at both public and private docks. Branford is known as one of the yachtsman's finest ports for facilities on Long Island Sound.

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