



Carriacou Sloops



GENESIS in frame, 2003. "During the build," writes Alexis Andrews in the book *Genesis*, "GENESIS was exposed to the elements. Over a period of 17 months the sun baked her, the rain soaked her, and the wind howled through her ribs."

Photographs by Alexis Andrews

Alexis Andrews began photographing at age 14, experimenting with art photography and learning the medium, and he later trained as an advertising and fashion photographer in Europe and the United States. He moved from England to the Caribbean in 1983 to pursue a sailing career, but "ended up finding work in photography"—specifically, in yachting photography.

"I like design," says Alexis, when asked about his favorite yachting subjects. "I'm very interested in new designs. And I like vintage yachts. Hence, my divergence into West Indian Wooden Boats."

That "divergence" was anything but an idle pastime. "I fell in love with these boats from seeing them sailing in the Caribbean," he said, "and I decided I wanted to own one." Alexis purchased SUMMER WIND, a

run-down Carriacou sloop, in Antigua in 1997, and "undertook to rebuild her with basic carpentry skills and much enthusiasm." He subsequently sailed the boat 350 miles south to Carriacou, where his respect for the boats and their heritage deepened. And then he decided to have one built.

His new boat, GENESIS, was the first new Carriacou sloop in over a decade, and Alexis photographed its entire construction. The images from that 17-month project became the basis for *Genesis*, Alexis's beautifully produced hardcover book detailing the boat's construction. This book has a companion volume, *Vanishing Ways*, describing the sailing and culture surrounding the Carriacou Sloops. The images on the following pages are excerpted from these two volumes. —Eds



GENESIS and crew compete in the Antigua Classics regatta, 2005, after a fast passage from Windward, the village where she was built. She collected numerous trophies at the event.



A crewman of AMERICAN DREAM displays fresh-caught butterfish, 1998. From *Vanishing Ways*: "Fishing in these waters hasn't changed much in a long time. We trolled lines with hand-sewn baited lures, every now and again pulling in a small barracuda while we passed the time chatting about the rising prices of materials to keep these wooden boats alive and working."



A Carriacou sloop is careened to prepare the bottom for the annual Regatta, 1998.

The launching of GENESIS, February 20, 2005. "When she was safely lying on her mooring," writes Alexis Andrews in *Genesis*, "Alwyn [Enoe, the builder] arrived with 'red wine for blood' as libation to the spirits. Responsibility for GENESIS was now mine."





Racing at Watering Bay, Carriacou, 1999. "Start times for races are mostly irrelevant," writes Andrews. "...[C]rews are called out to their vessels by blowing a conch shell. A race will officially commence when two or more vessels are in the vicinity of the 'stake boat' and a captain will shout 'le we go.'"

MARISTELLA returns to Watering Bay during Carriacou Regatta, 1999.



The slipcased set containing the books *Vanishing Ways* and *Genesis* is available for \$100 from IndianCreekBooks.com.